

H/p

THE PHANTOM[®]

The Complete Series: The King Years



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HERMES
PRESS

neshannock, pennsylvania

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Acknowledgments

This book would not be possible without the help, cooperation, patience, and kindness of many people. First and foremost in making this endeavor possible are all the folks at King Features: Ita Goltzman and Frank Caruso. Additionally, a tip of the ole hat to Pete Klaus (co-author of the informative essay prefacing this book) who provided invaluable help in assembling this volume. Also a hearty "thanks" to Ed Rhoades who is always there when we need clarification on point of Phantom history. Both Ed and Pete have provided us with resource material, contacts, information, and helpful insights into the world of The Phantom and continue to be there when we have questions about The Ghost Who Walks. Our thanks also to Howard S. Gesbeck for unearthing the unpublished cover artwork for the King *Phantom*. Last, but not least, thanks to Mark Rachow who came through in a pinch.



The Complete Series: The King Years

5	Introduction	The Phantom, The King Years
8	<i>The Phantom #18</i>	The Treasure of the Skull Cave
34 50	<i>The Phantom #19</i>	The Astronaut and the Pirates The Masked Emissary
60 74	<i>The Phantom #20</i>	The Adventures of The Girl Phantom The Invisible Demon
86 100	<i>The Phantom #21</i>	The Treasure of Bengali Bay The Terror Tiger
112	<i>The Phantom #22</i>	The Secret of Magic Mountain
138	<i>The Phantom #23</i>	Delilah
164	<i>The Phantom #24</i>	The Riddle of the Witch
190	<i>The Phantom #25</i>	The Cold Fire Worshippers
216 232	<i>The Phantom #26</i>	The Lost City of Yango The Pearl Raiders
242 258	<i>The Phantom #27</i>	The Story of Hero The Long Trip Home
268 284	<i>The Phantom #28</i>	Diana's Deadly Tour The Big Fight
288 292 296 300	Back-up Stories	SOS Phantom SOS Phantom: The Pirate Raiders The Magic Ivory Cage The Girl Phantom

contents

full red / full yellow including

THE PHANTOM

full yellow Bkg.

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Introduction

The Phantom, the King Years

In August, 1966, a decision was made by King Features Syndicate to publish a number of comic titles using their own licensed characters. Calling their new company King Comics, the syndicate could now eliminate the “middle man” and have greater control over the characters and the profit margin. Many of the comic titles to be used were previously published by “Gold Key” (Western Publishing) which ceased production of King Features properties in 1966. The characters to be used by this new company included: Beetle Bailey (issues #54 to #66), Blondie (issues #166 to #175), Flash Gordon (issues #1 to #11), Jungle Jim (issue #5), Mandrake the Magician (issues #1 to #10), and most importantly The Phantom (issues #18 to #28 published from September 1966 to November 1967).

Most of the cover art used for the King *Phantom* books were direct ‘swipes’ taken from the panels of renowned *Phantom* artist Sy Barry (*Phantom* newspaper comic strip artist from 1961 to 1993). The interior art for the King *Phantom* series was drawn by comic artist Bill Lignante (issue #25 had artwork by Senio Pratesi and was a reprint of an Italian *Phantom* comic book story). Lignante was also responsible for the story art for all 17 issues of the previous Gold Key *Phantom* series. Lignante had his own unique style illustrating The Ghost Who Walks. In addition to introducing modern layouts, he is the only syndicated Phantom artist to show The Phantom’s ears bulging from under his cowl. In addition, Lignante would occasionally draw The Phantom with eyes, a practice that Lee Falk once said detracted from The Phantom’s mysterious and ghostly persona. It is an undeniable fact that Lignante played an important part

Opposite page: color guide for the cover to King’s *The Phantom* #29, which never saw publication in the United States but later saw use in a Mexican *Phantom* comic book.



in the history of The Phantom in comic books by drawing numerous stories for Gold Key, King, and Charlton books.

King Comics initially sold their books individually to stores for 12 cents and later for 15 cents. Toward the end of their publishing run, the company decided to sell sets of three comic titles in a sealed plastic bag for 29 cents. A typical “3 pack” might consist of a group of action/adventure characters like Flash Gordon, Mandrake the Magician, and The Phantom or a set containing three humor comics titles such as *Beetle Bailey*, *Blondie*, and *Popeye*. To market this new idea, King comics displayed their “Three Pack Bags” in a very attractive, and beautifully decorated box which was typically found sitting at eye level on a store counter top. Each “3 pack” display box would hold about twenty five comic packs, and the idea was that this highly decorated box would help catch the eye of the buyer and act as a catalyst to sell the product, and perhaps introduce readers to other King Features characters. Even though it was a clever attempt to increase sales, the idea never really caught on. As a result of poor sales King Comics ceased production in December, 1967.

One notable point for *Phantom* comic collectors is that even though issue #28 was to be the last *Phantom* King Comic released by the company, the cover for issue #29 and issue #30

were actually produced but never published in the United States. Long time Phantom collector Harold Gesbeck of Madison Wisconsin, unearthed the King *Phantom* #29 and #30 “mock-up” covers. In addition, Gesbeck also found the cover for what would have been King *Phantom* #29 being sold in Mexico. It is also interesting to note that the interior art for this *Phantom* Mexican edition was drawn by Bill Lignante. The story was titled “The Ghost Tribe” which was used some years later, here in the USA, in Charlton Comics issue #35 (1969).

Even though King Comics were only published for about a year, their contribution to the history of The Phantom in comic books was significant. So, sit back and enjoy these well crafted stories from the 1960’s in all of their splendor, intrigue, and majesty.

— Pete Klaus and Howard S. Gesbeck

Pete Klaus has loved reading and collecting comic books since he was a youngster. Over his years of collecting he was fortunate to meet and become friends with Phantom originator Lee Falk. Additionally, Klaus has had an opportunity to interview many of the artists involved with The Phantom the likes of Sy Barry, Fred Fredicks, Luke McDonnell, George Oleson, George Wilson, Graham Nolan, Sal Vellutto, Keith Williams, Kari Leppenen [Finland], Felmang [Italy], Hans Lindhal [Sweden], Cesar Spadari [Argentina] and Paul Ryan.

In the early 1990’s he was the assistant editor of an international newsletter called *Friends Of The Phantom* and along with long time friend, artist, and writer Ed Rhoades, they interviewed many of the important comic book artists, writers, and publishers of *Phantom* comics around the world.

Howard S. Gesbeck is a retired Certified Public Accountant living with his wife in Madison, Wisconsin. He has been interested in The Phantom since he was ten years old and read the comic strip in the *Chicago American* newspaper on Sunday mornings.

Opposite page: counter display box of King comic books featuring a copy of *The Phantom* #26.

THE PHANTOM



Revealed! The fabulous secret treasure of the Skull Cave!

HIDDEN TREASURES HAVE ALWAYS INTRIGUED MEN, FROM THE LOST MINES OF KING SOLOMON TO THE ENDLESS SEARCH FOR BURIED PIRATE TREASURE. BUT THE MOST EXCITING, MOST WHISPERED-ABOUT, IS THE FABULOUS PHANTOM TREASURE HIDDEN WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS SKULL CAVE. FEW MEN KNOW ITS LOCATION, FEWER STILL HAVE SEEN

The TREASURE of the SKULL CAVE



SOME MEN DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT. SOME, LIKE CAPPY SWARGO, HUNT DOWN THE TREASURE HUNTERS.

FIFTY THOUSAND, YOU SAY, COLONEL ANDREW?

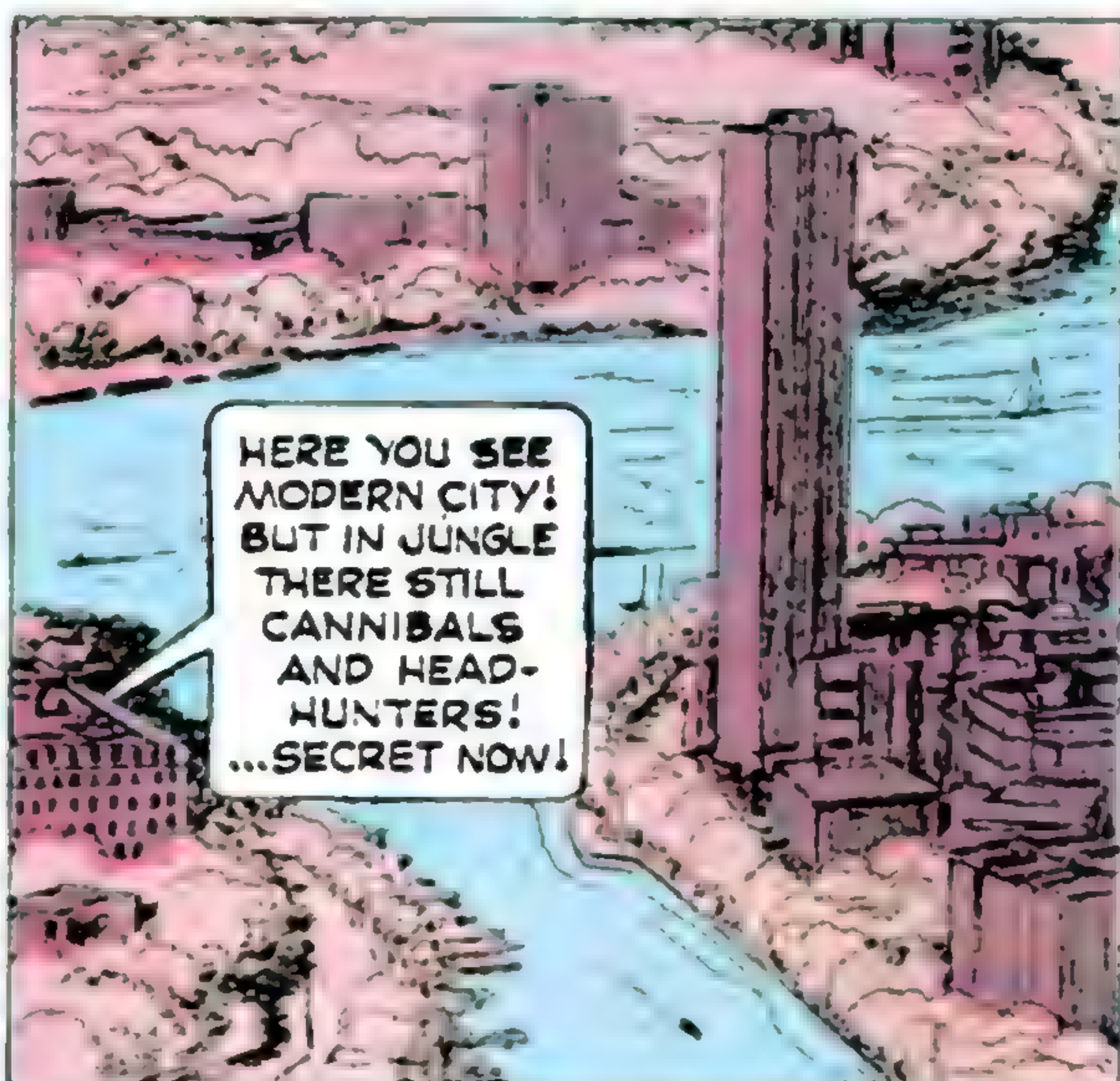
... AND CHEAP AT THE PRICE! I ALONE KNOW THE LOCATION OF CLEOPATRA'S TREASURE!

HMM
!?!
GRAND-PA...

SOME OTHERS, LIKE PIRATE PETE, LOOK FOR EASY MONEY IN OTHER WAYS. ... LIKE GUN RUNNING.

HEAVE TO, OR WE'LL BLAST YOU OUT OF THE WATER!







"HERE LIVES *THE PHANTOM*—THE GHOST WHO WALKS—AND HERE IS THE SKULL CAVE AND A VERY GREAT TREASURE!"



"THROUGH THE CENTURIES, MANY PIRATES AND BANDITS HAVE TRIED TO REACH THE TREASURE, BUT ALL HAVE FAILED!"



YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CON A FEW SUCKERS WITH A YARN LIKE *THAT, PETE!*

NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE IT—EVEN IF I TOLD THEM THE STORY!

PHANTOM TREASURE IS *REAL!* PHANTOM IS REAL!

I HAVE SEEN HIM WITH *MY OWN EYES!*

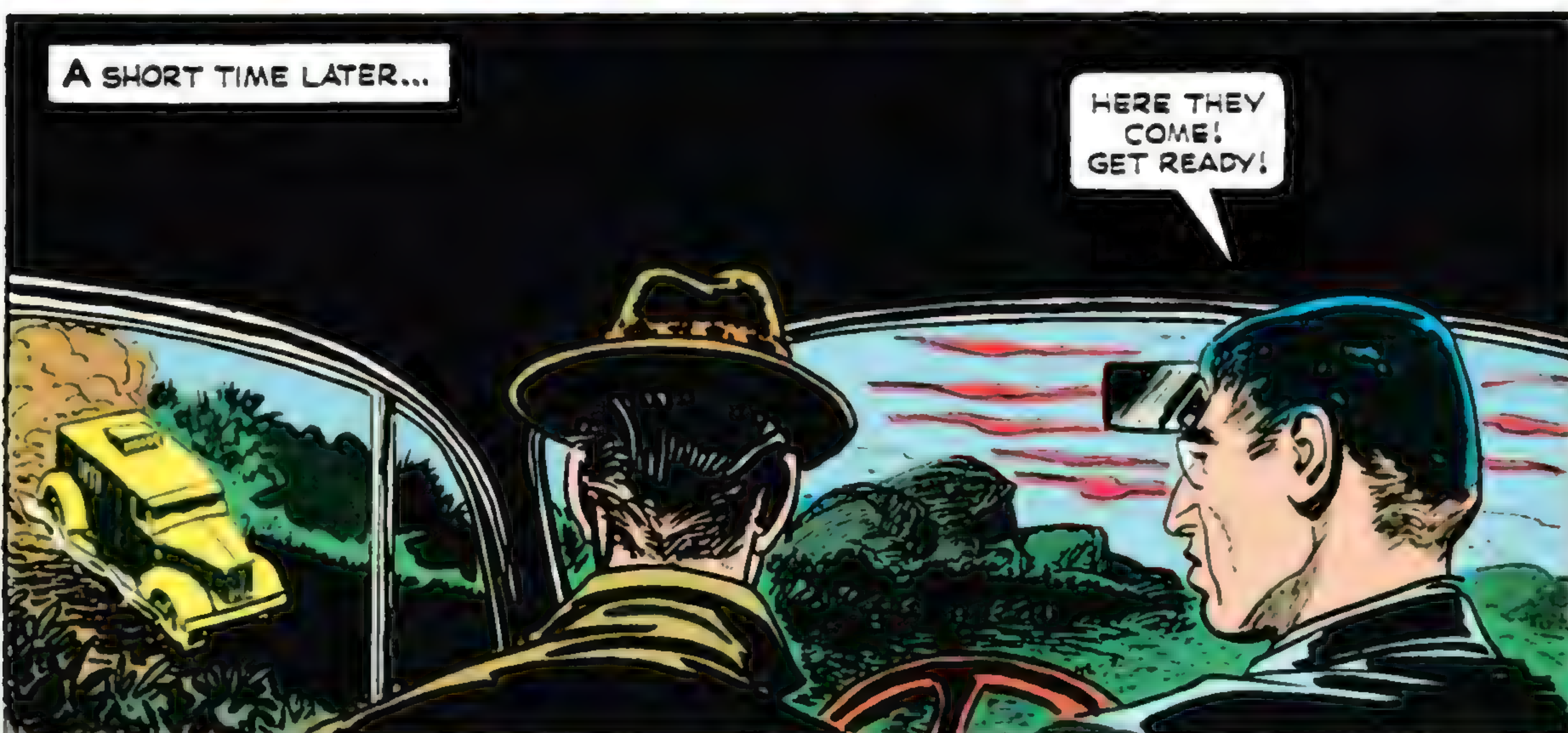
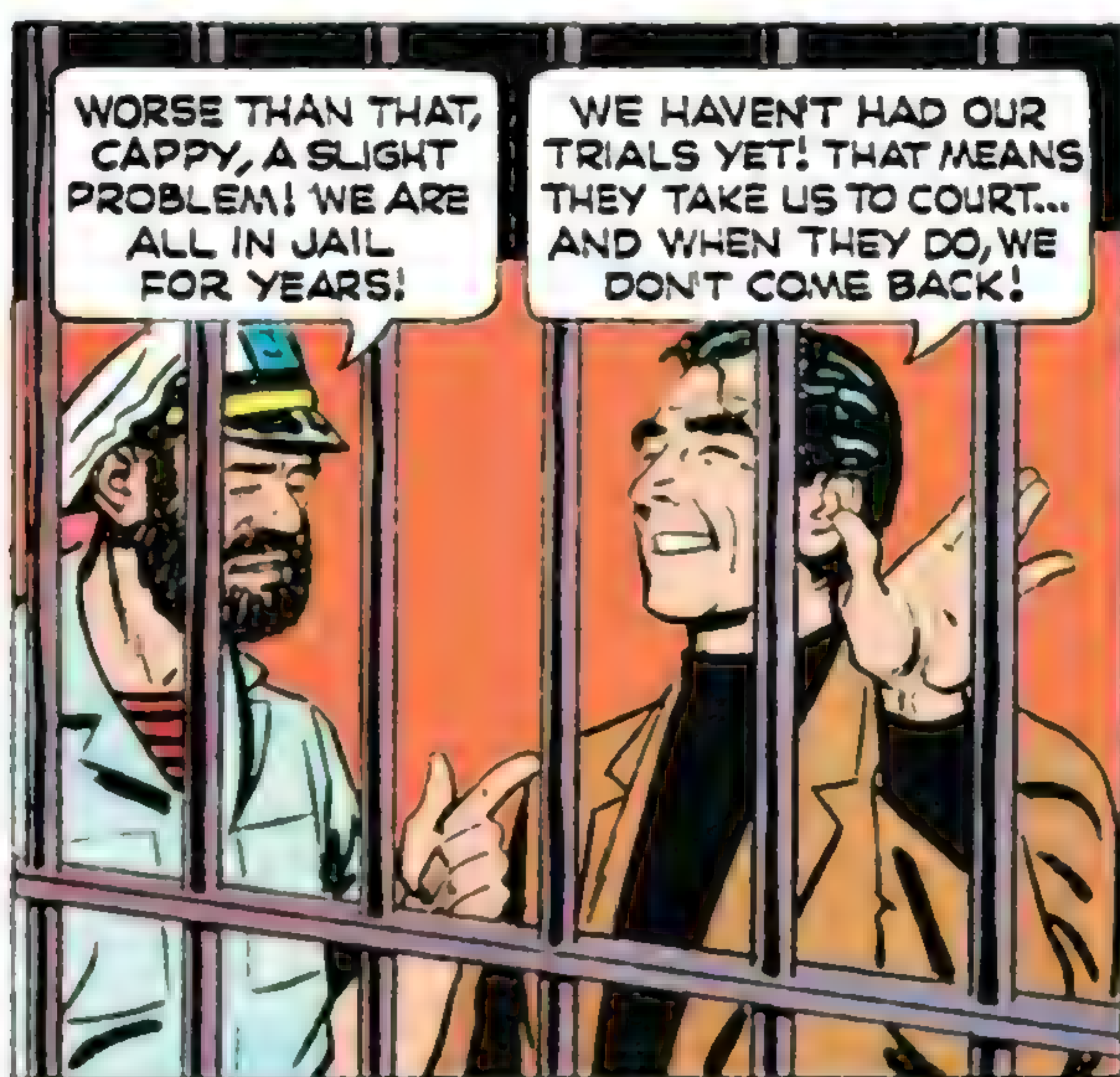


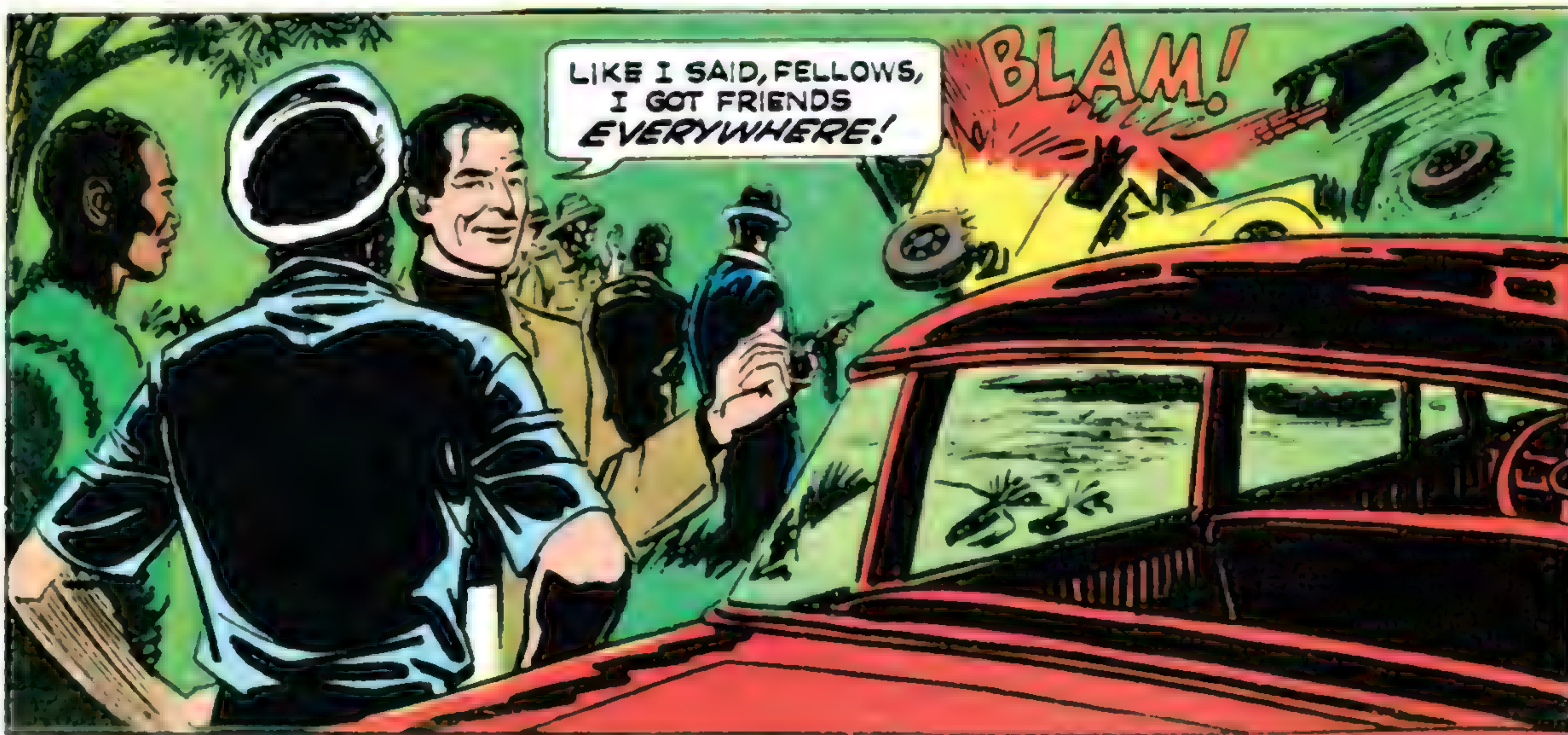
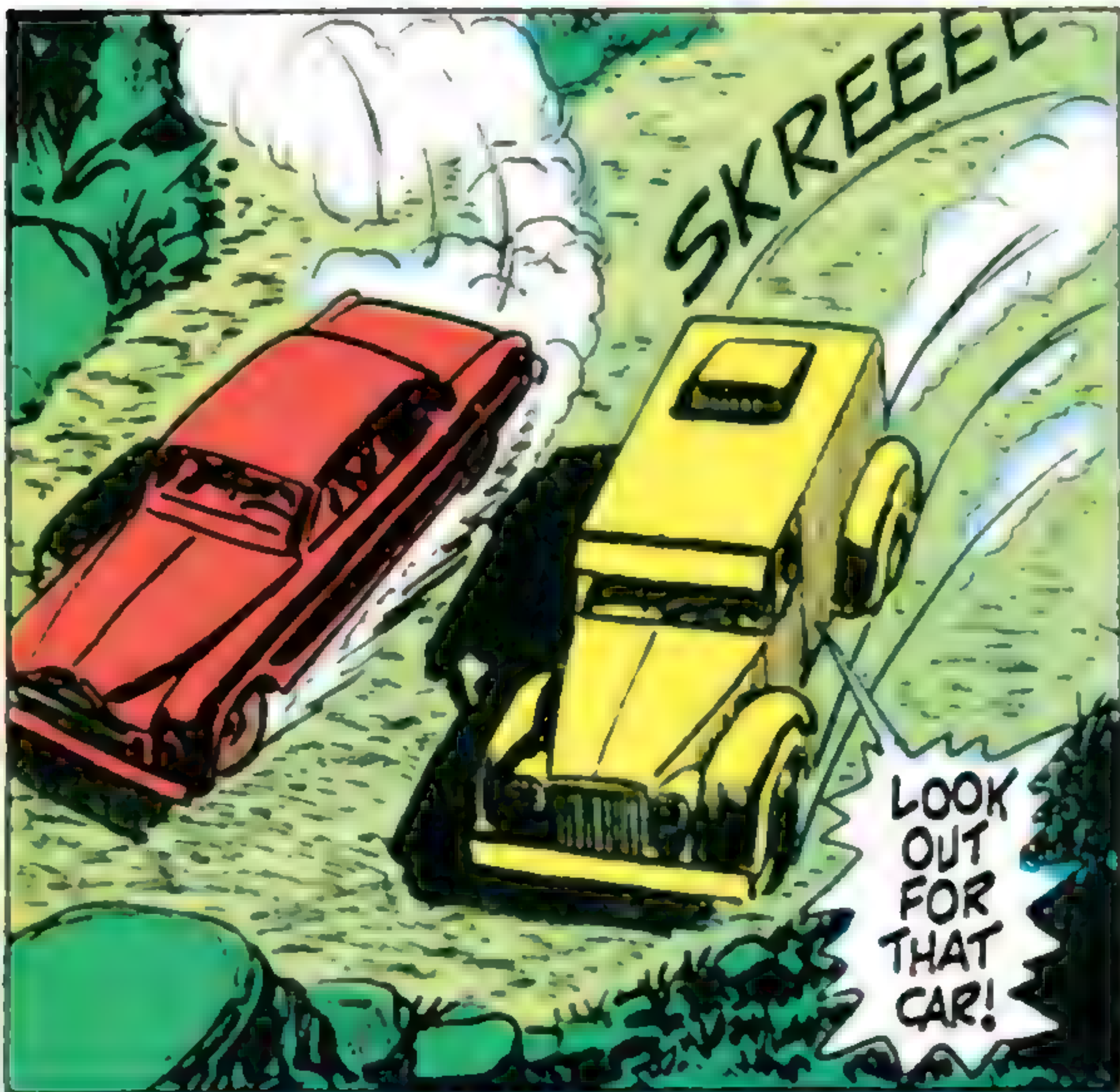
"MY UNCLE WAS A CHIEF! I WAS HIS FAN BEARER! ONE DAY WE VISITED THE DEEP WOODS!"

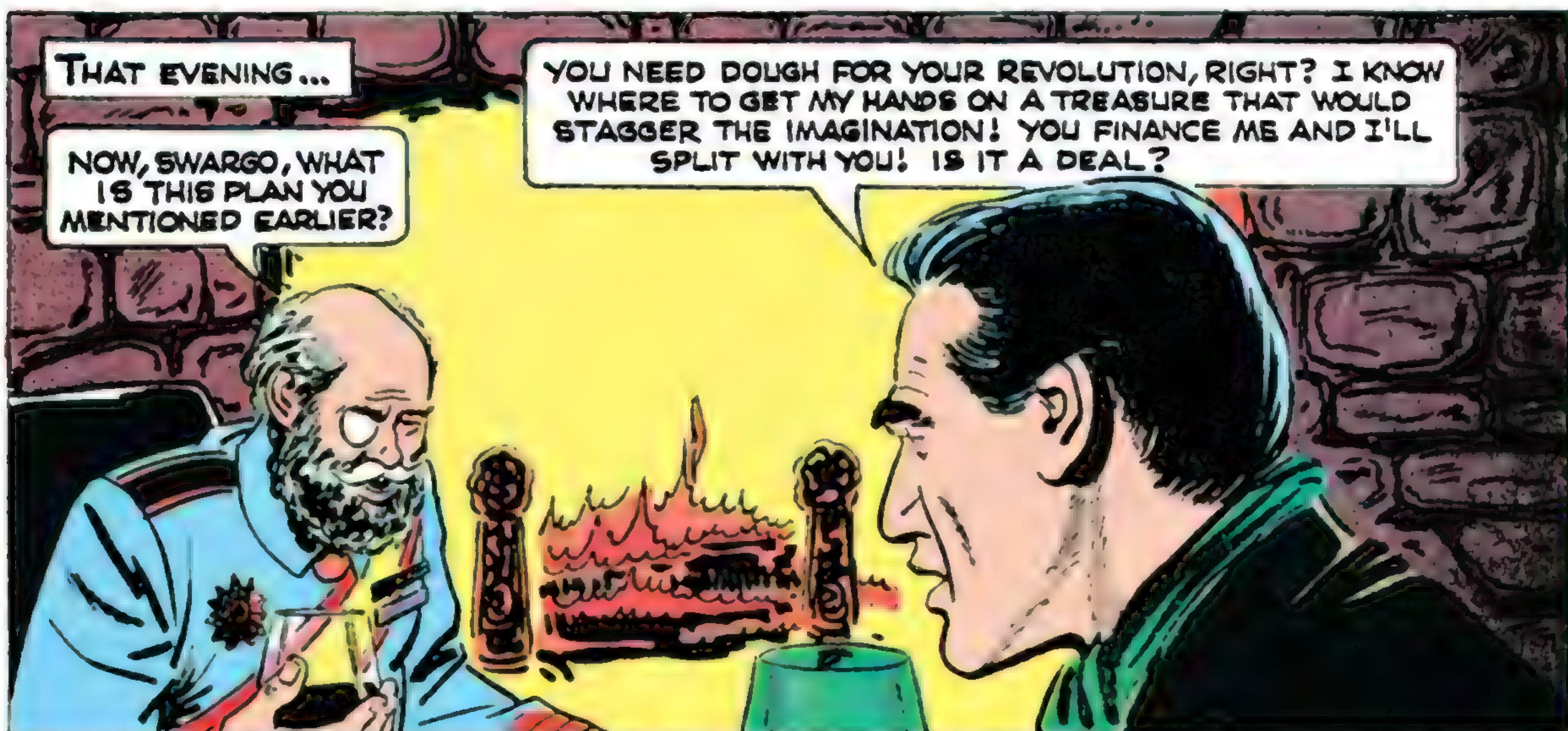


"THERE ON THE SKULL THRONE, I SAW *HIM!*"

YOU ASKED TO SEE MY TREASURE! THEN YOU SHALL, *KINGS AND CHIEFS!*





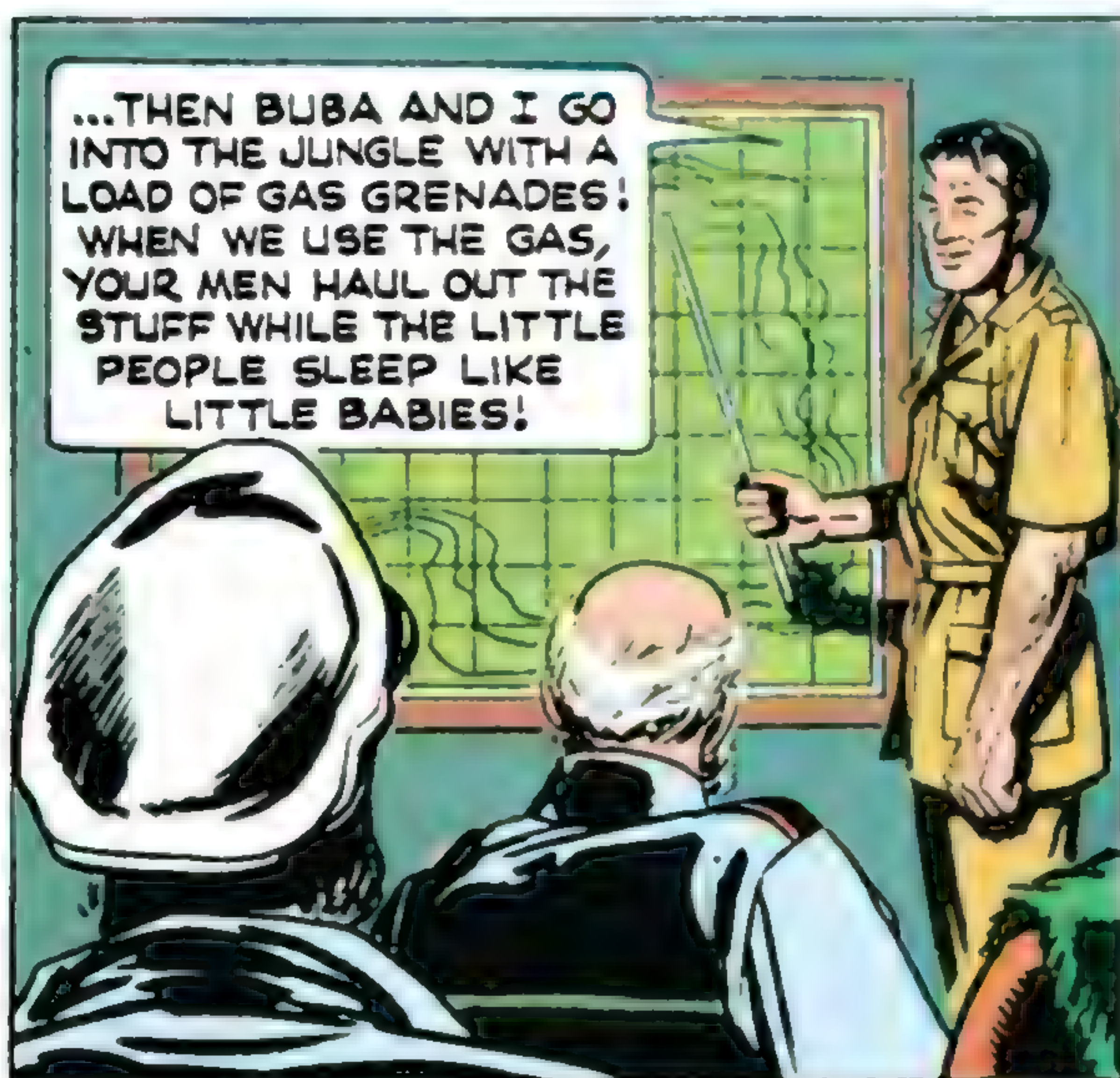




NEXT MORNING, PLANNING BEGINS...

TWO THOUSAND MILES OF JUNGLE...PYGMIES WITH POISON ARROWS...HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE GET THERE?

THEY'VE GOT POISON ARROWS, BUT WE'VE GOT POISON **GAS**! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY...



...THEN BUBA AND I GO INTO THE JUNGLE WITH A LOAD OF GAS GRENADES! WHEN WE USE THE GAS, YOUR MEN HAUL OUT THE STUFF WHILE THE LITTLE PEOPLE SLEEP LIKE LITTLE BABIES!



IT MIGHT JUST WORK! LET'S SHAKE ON IT!

TO THE **PHANTOM TREASURE**!



SPLIT? I'LL KEEP IT **ALL**!

WHEN HIS MEN ARRIVE, I'LL BE LONG GONE!

I CAN KNOCK **HIM** OFF EASY!

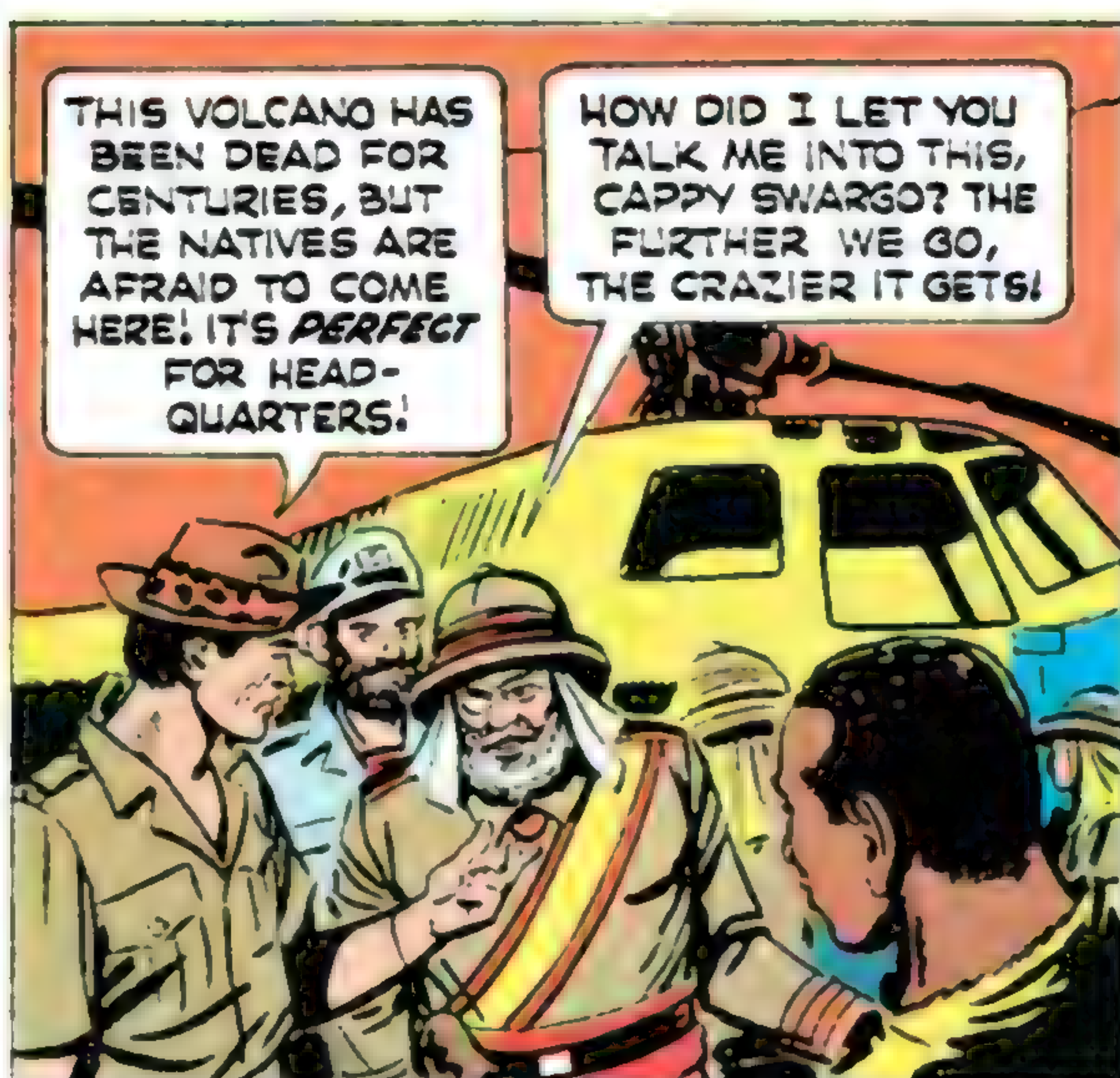
SWINDLING THESE FELLOWS SHOULD BE EASY!

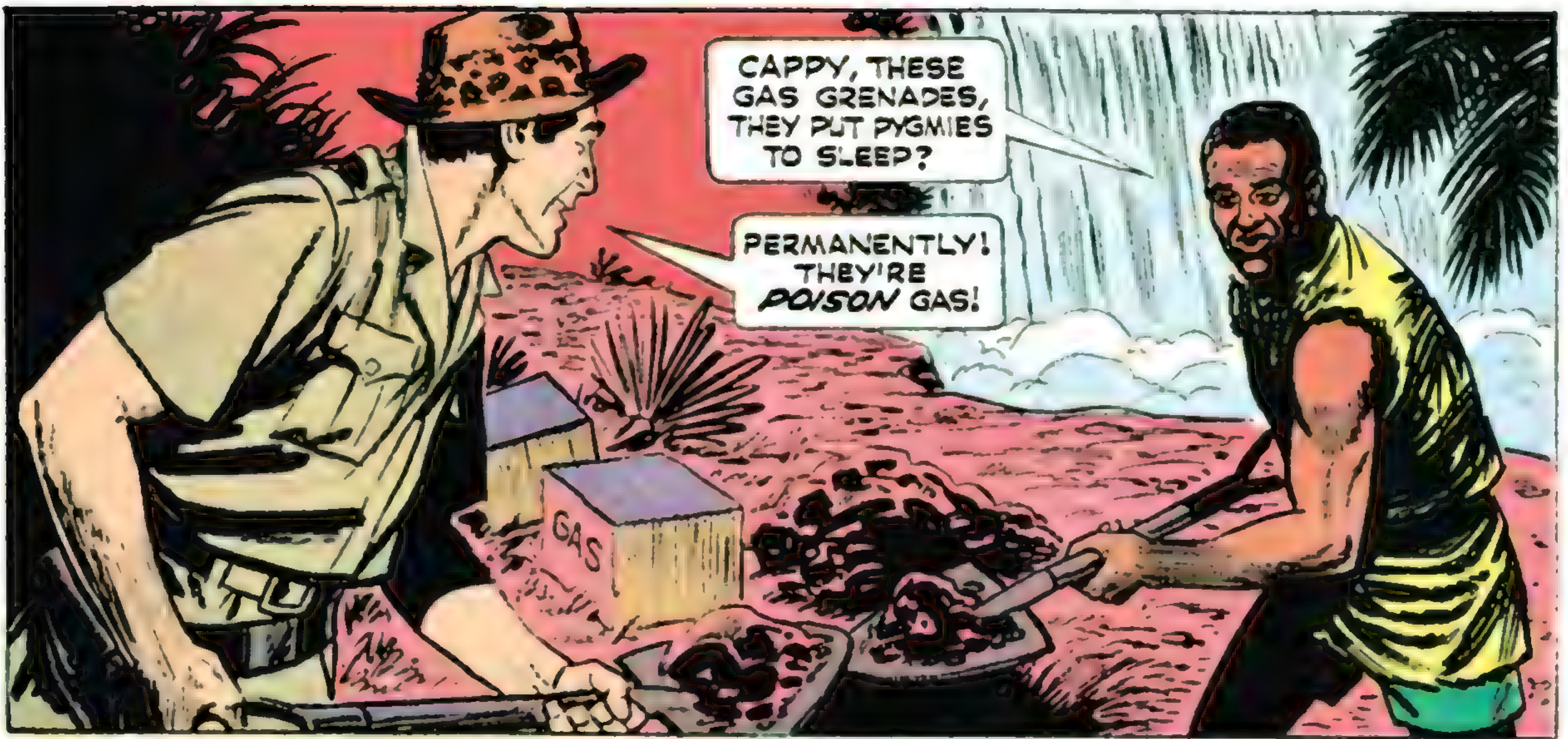


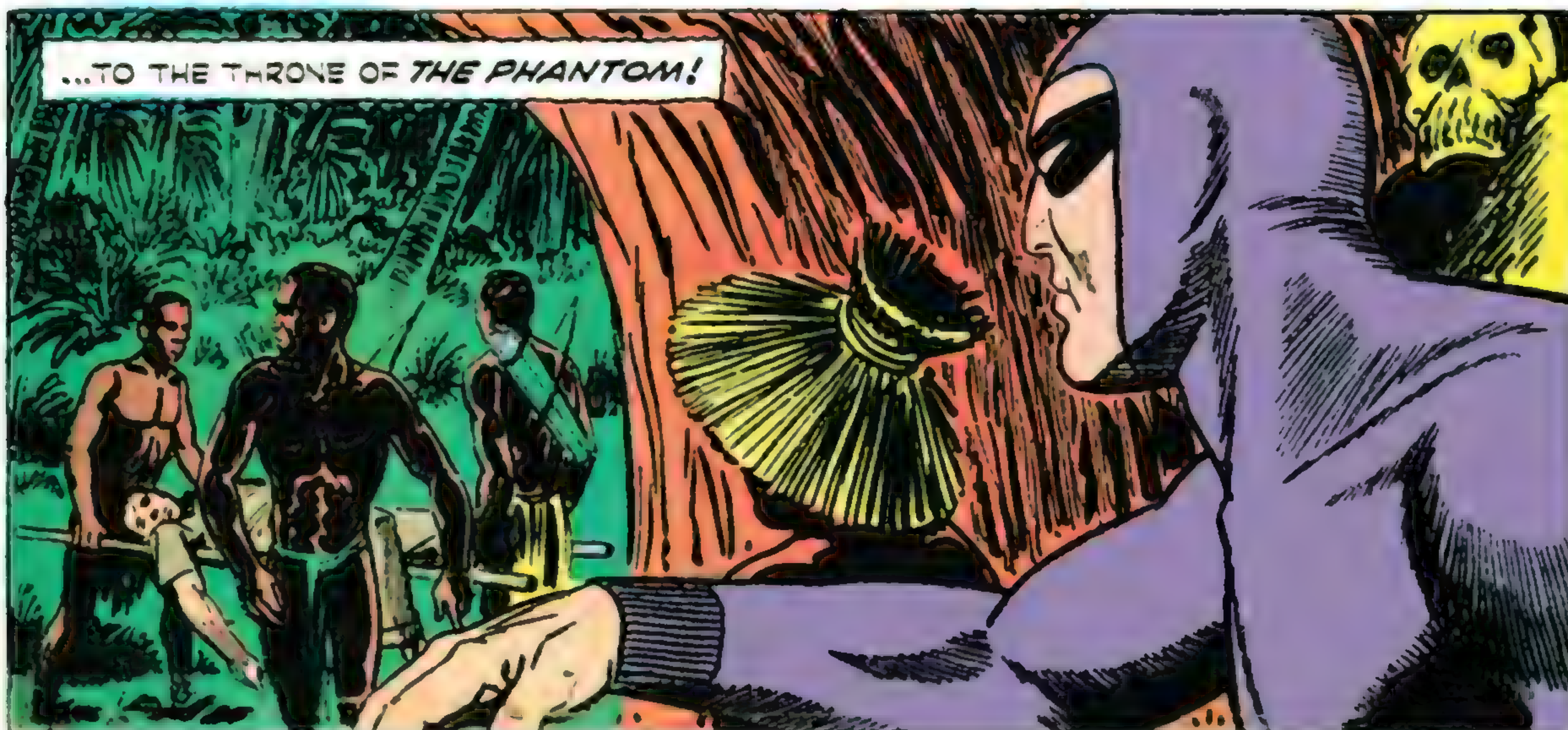
MEANWHILE, TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY...

THE ENTIRE JUNGLE KNOWS OF YOUR GREAT TREASURE, O GHOST WHO WALKS! YET YOU LEAVE IT UNGUARDED!

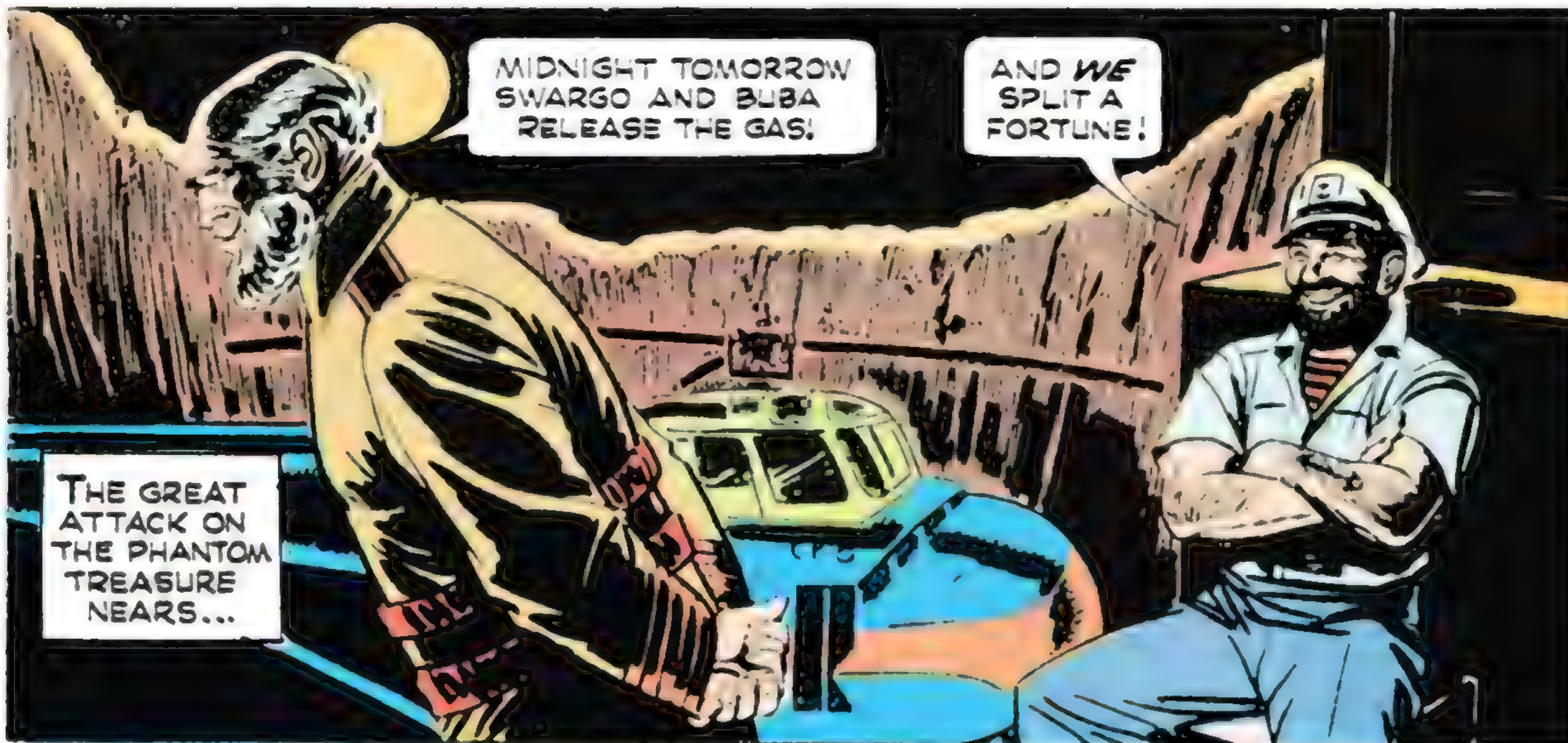
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I, GURAN, NO ONE DARES TO COME WITHIN FIFTY MILES OF THIS PLACE!

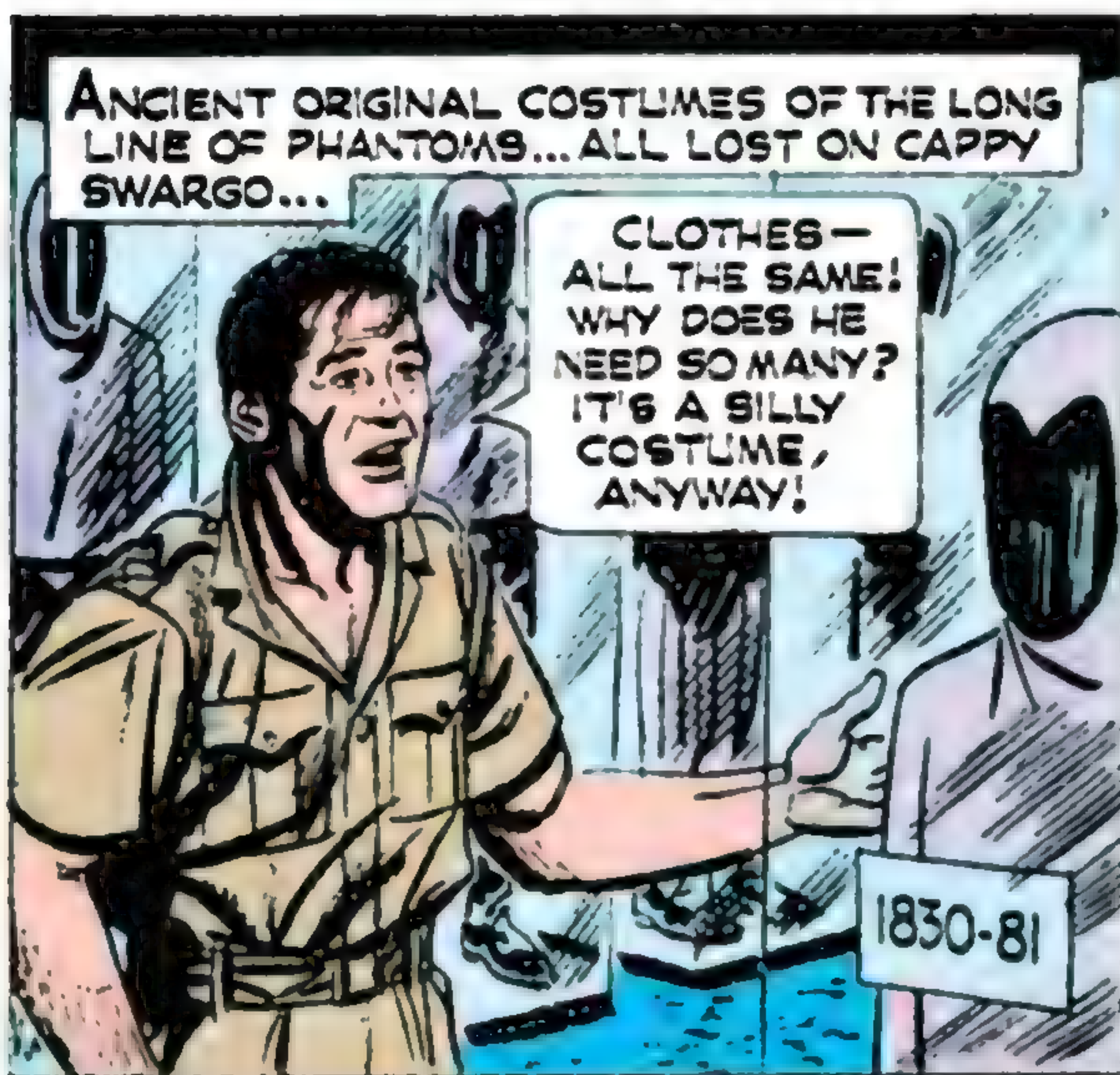
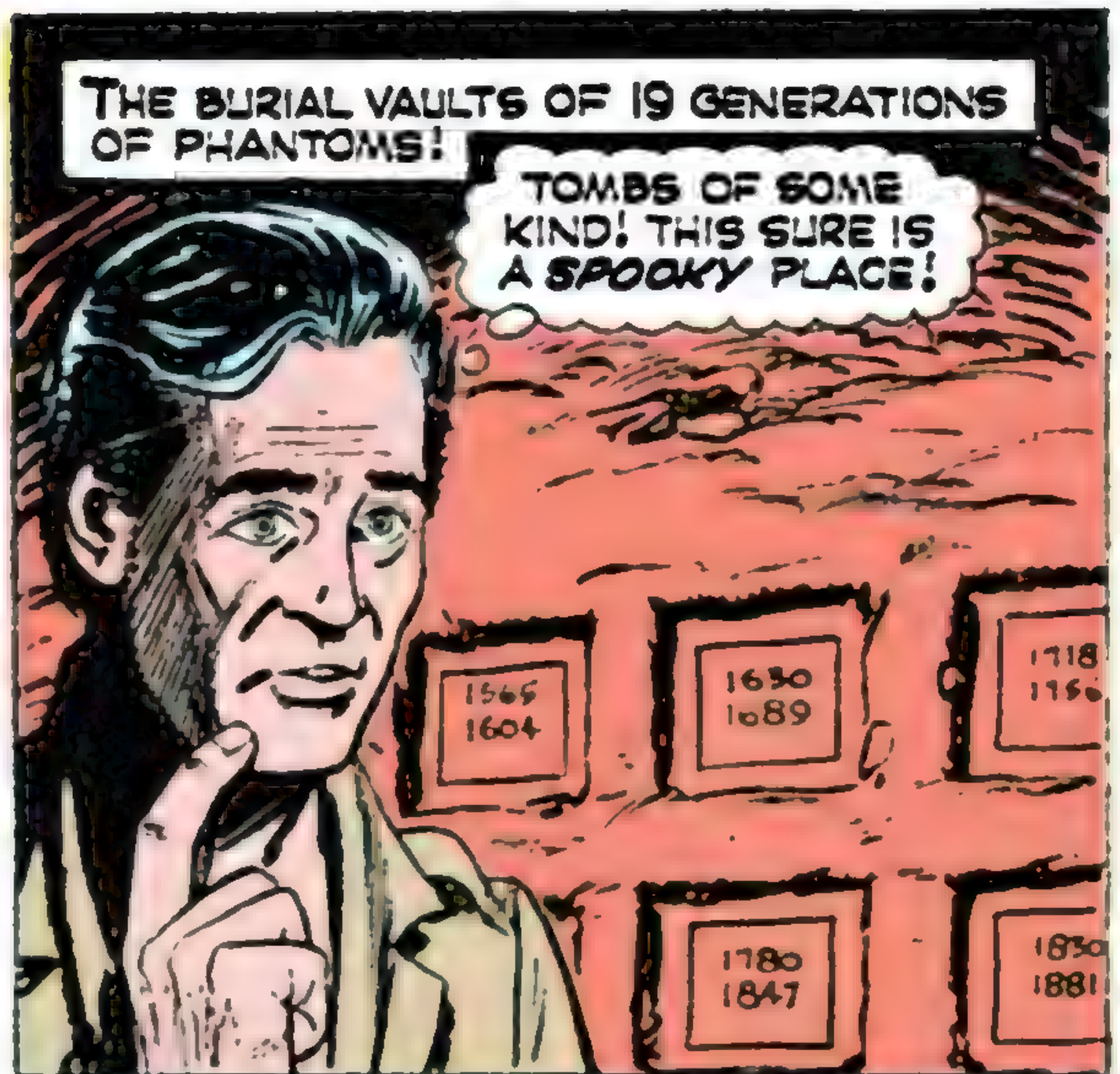














CONTINUED

THE PHANTOM

"TREASURE OF THE SKULL CAVE"

SEARCHING FOR THE TREASURE OF THE SKULL CAVE, CAPPY SWARGO, THE THIEF, FINDS ONE OF THE TREASURE ROOMS... HE ALSO FINDS THE PHANTOM, WHO PROCEEDS TO GIVE HIM A GUIDED TOUR!

THIS IS A *MINOR* TREASURE ROOM! IT CONTAINS LITTLE OF INTEREST TO ME!

I'M IN! AND SO EASY! THIS GUY MUST BE SOME KIND OF *NUT!*



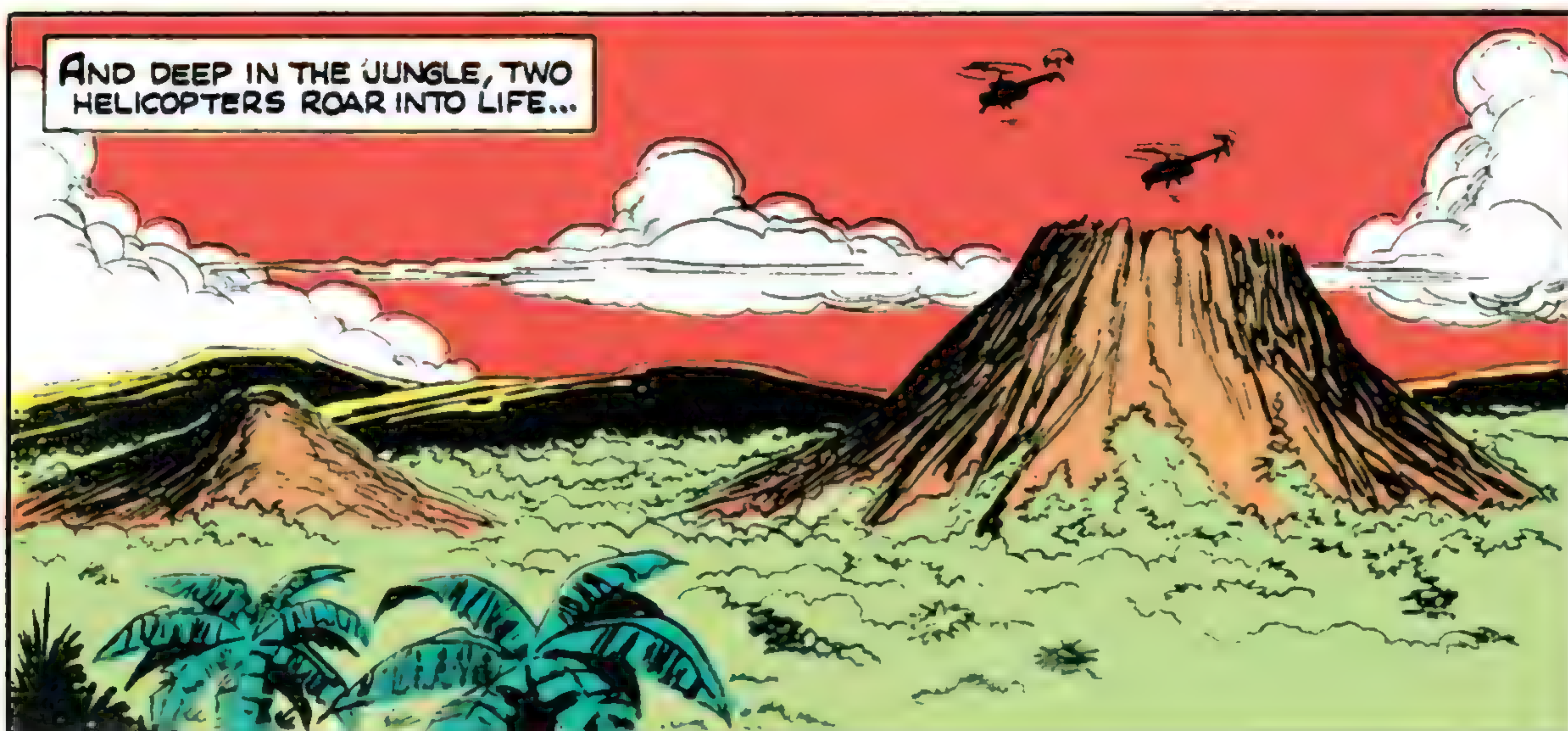
BUT *THIS* IS THE MAJOR TREASURE ROOM, FILLED WITH MANY ANCIENT THINGS! FOR EXAMPLE—THE SWORD OF ARTHUR!

THIS IS A TREASURE?

THIS IS INTERESTING! THESE ARE THE MUMMIFIED REMAINS OF THE ACTUAL ASP THAT QUEEN CLEOPATRA USED TO KILL HERSELF!

A RUSTY OLD SWORD—A DEAD SNAKE? IS HE KIDDING? WHERE'S THE *REAL* TREASURE?







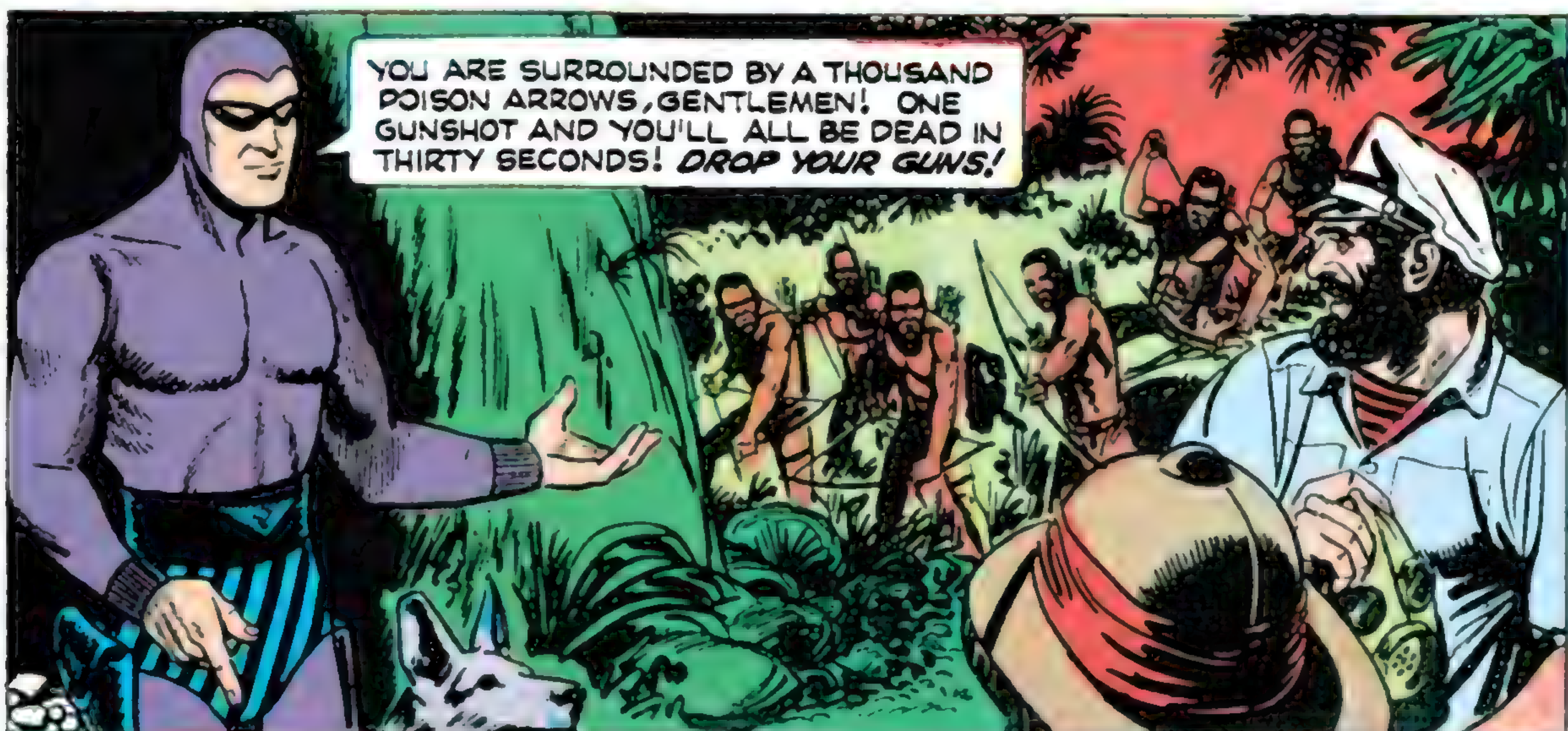
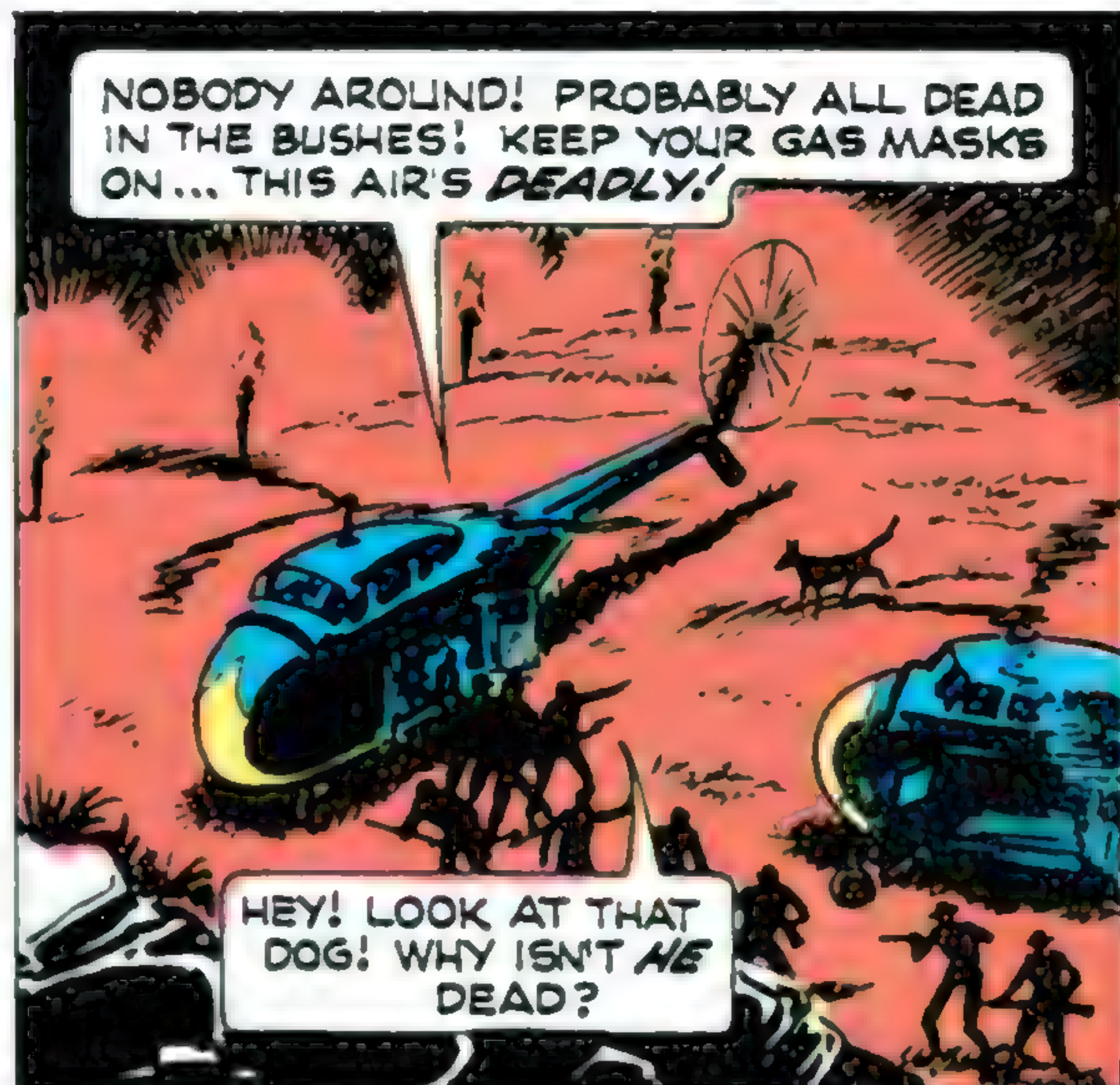




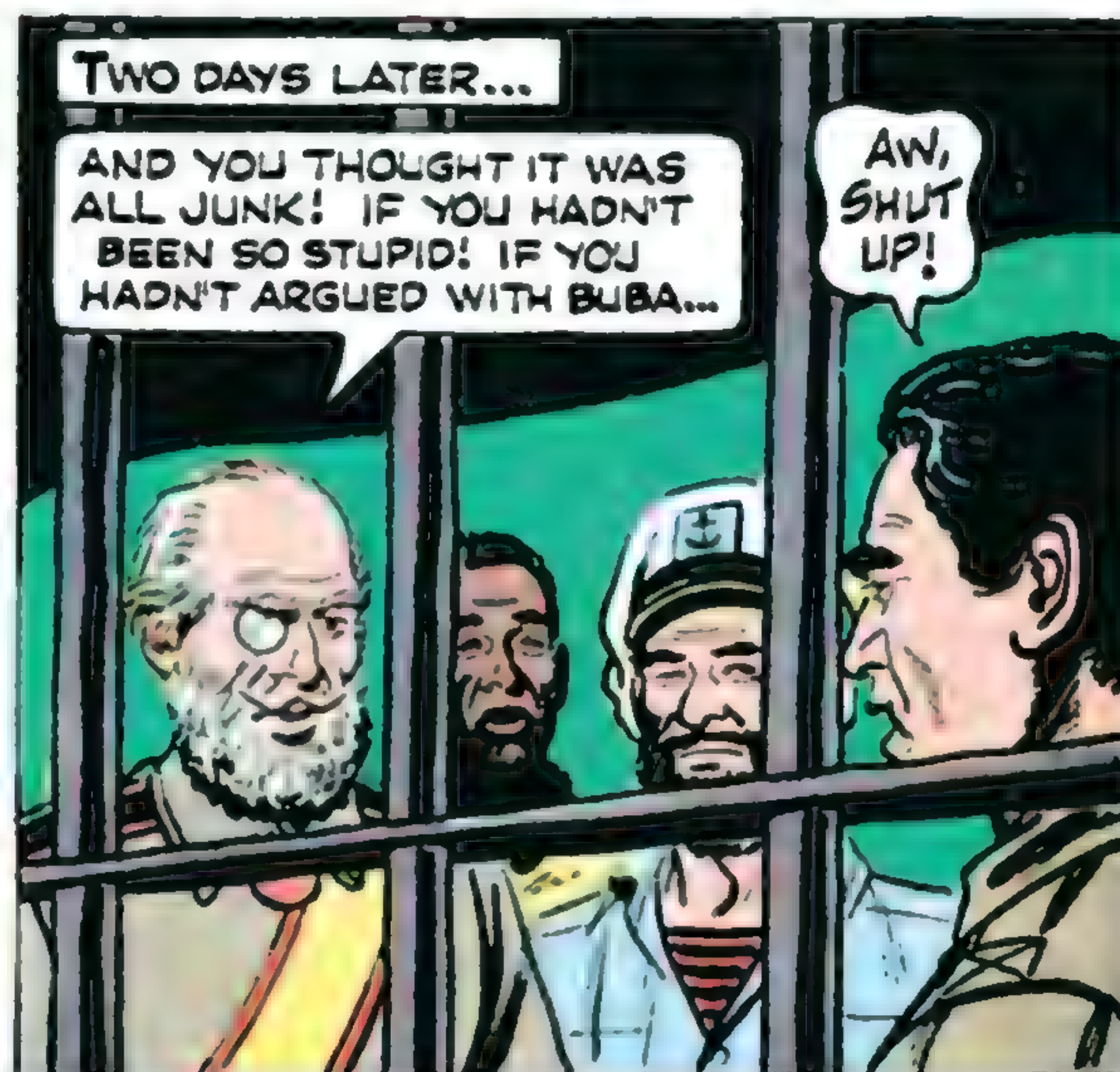


THE TREES OF THE JUNGLE TREMBLE WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY... OLD JUNGLE SAYING!











Above: unused cover production art for *The Phantom* #29.

THE PHANTOM

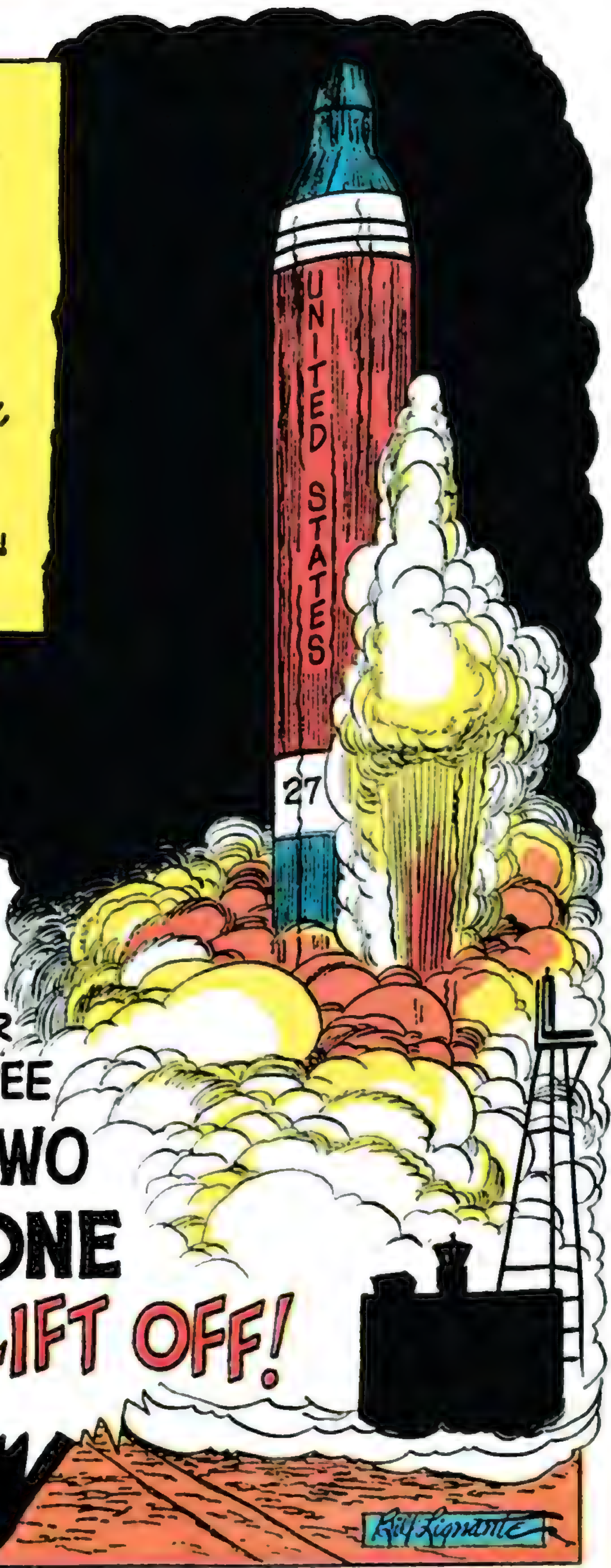


The PHANTOM THE ASTRONAUT AND THE PIRATES

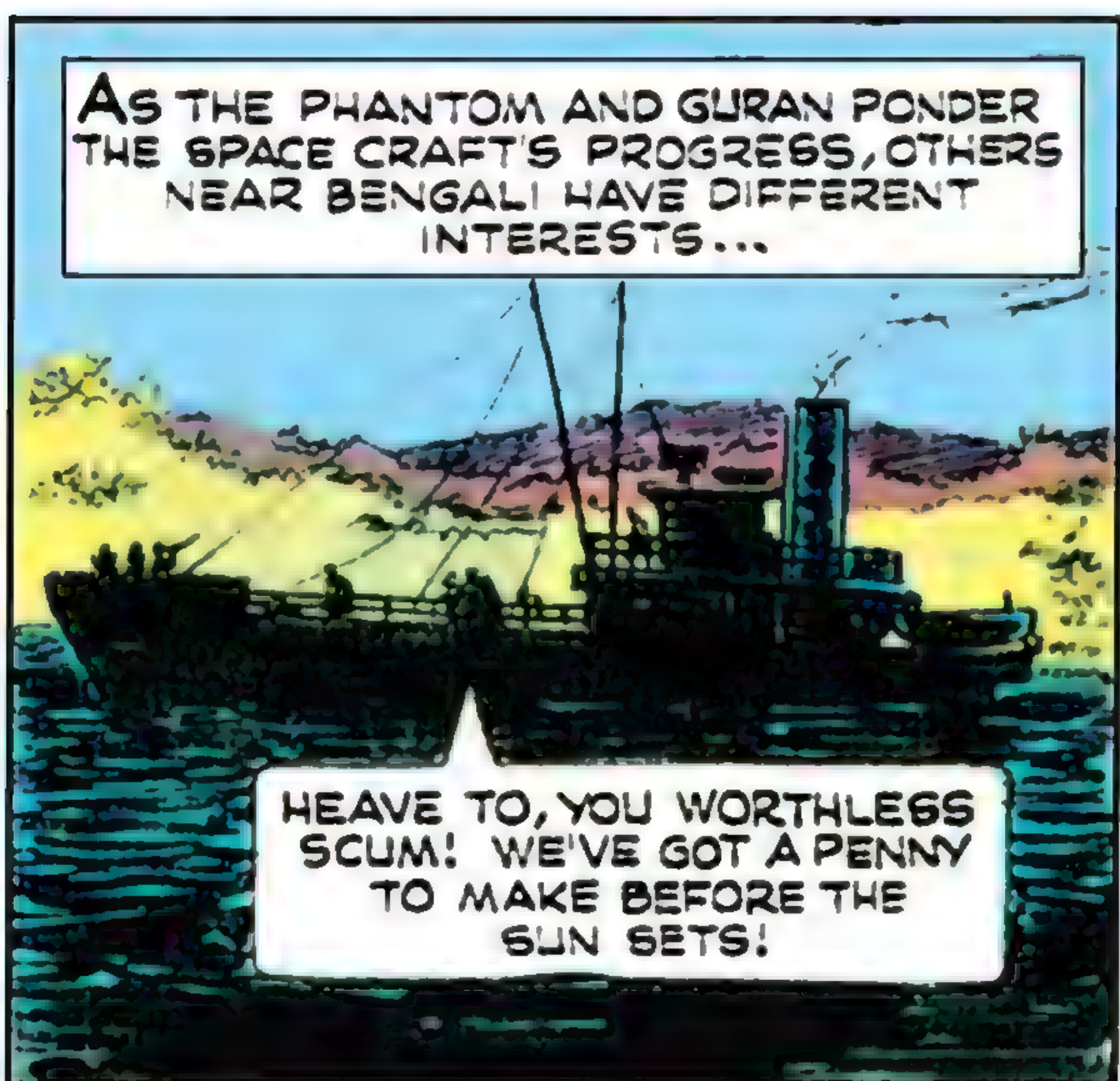
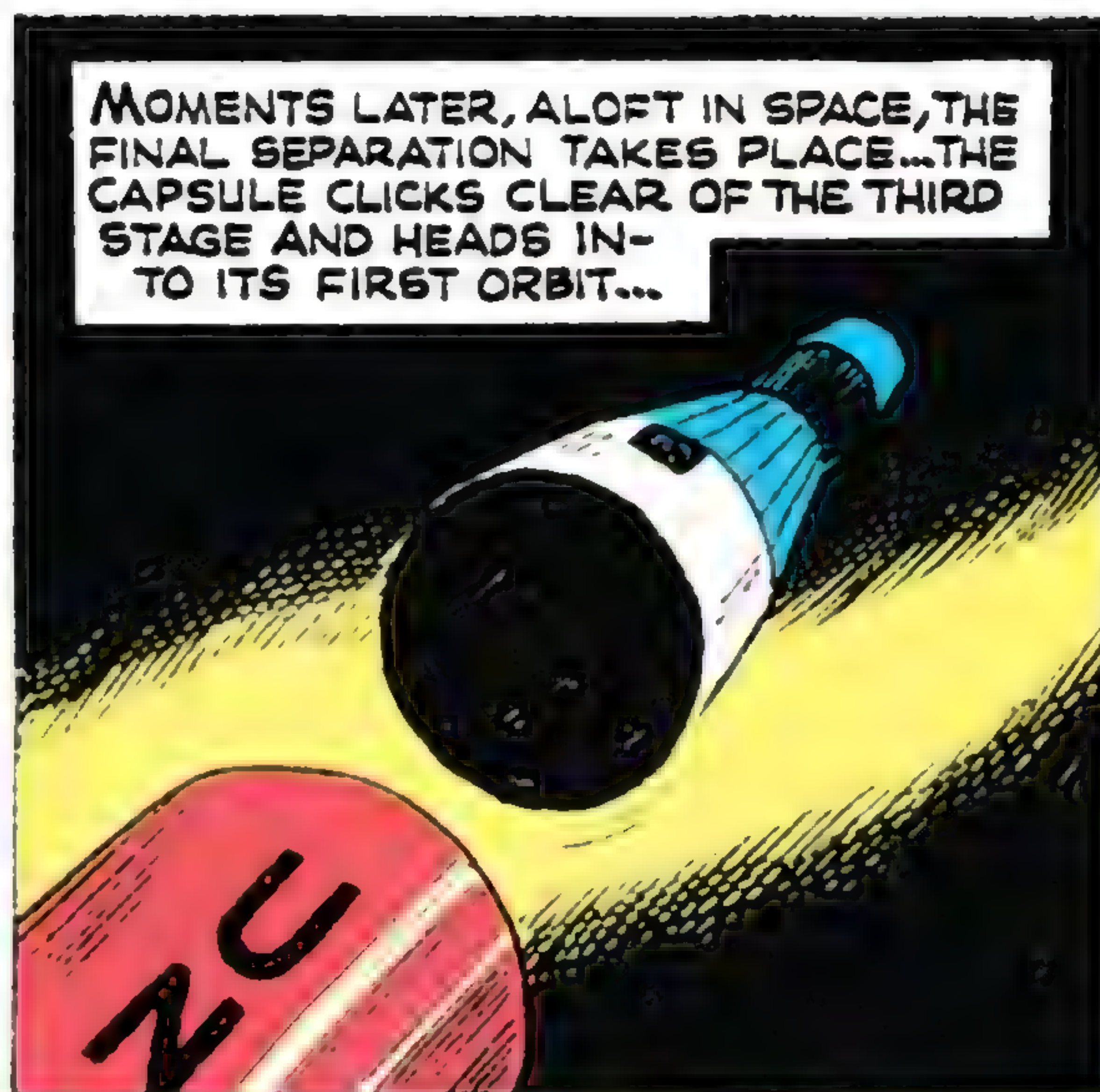
DEEP IN THE BENGALI JUNGLE, THE PHANTOM LISTENS INTENTLY, AS SIX THOUSAND MILES AWAY, THE EARTH SHUDDERS AND A GREAT ROCKET BEGINS HER HERCULEAN FIGHT AGAINST THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF EARTH!

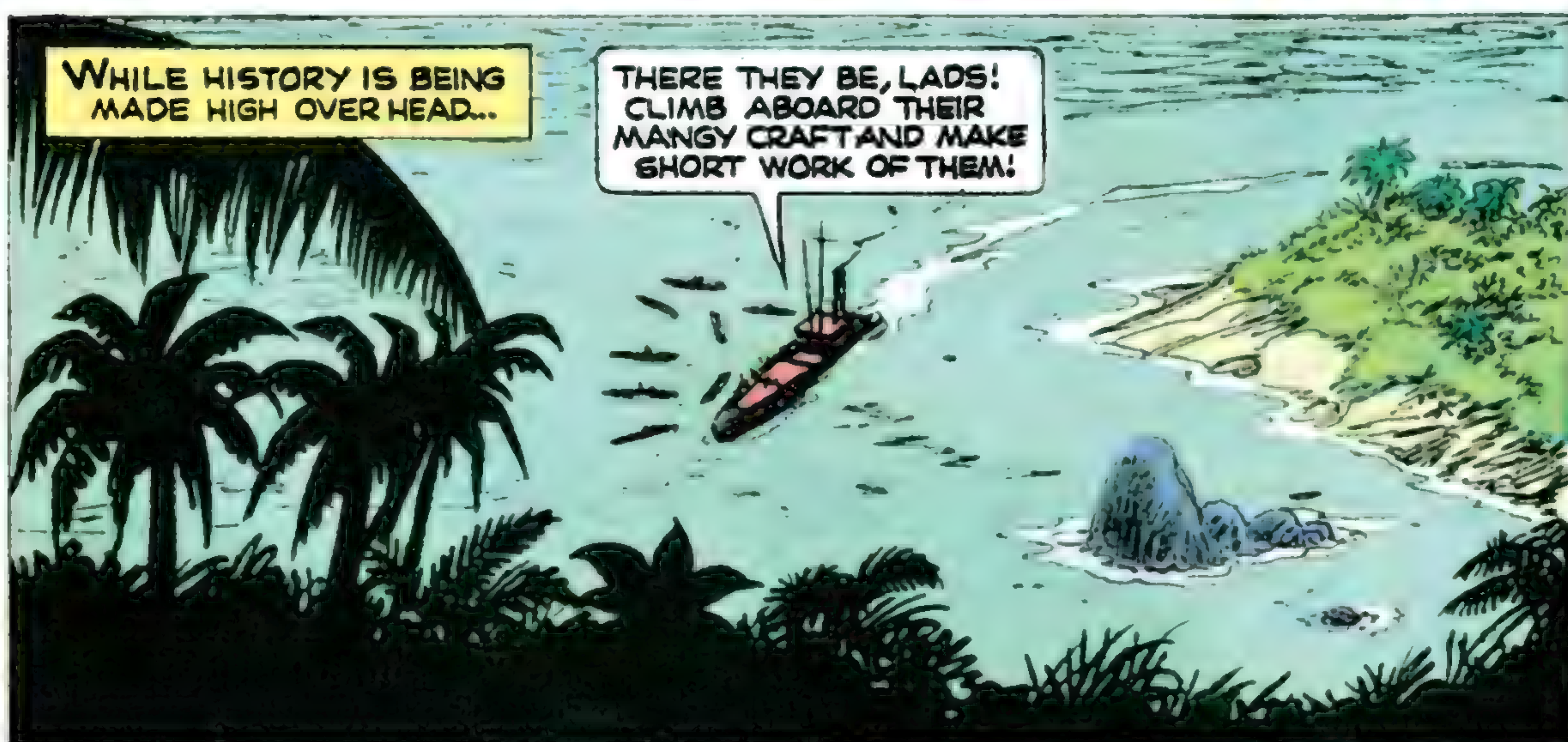
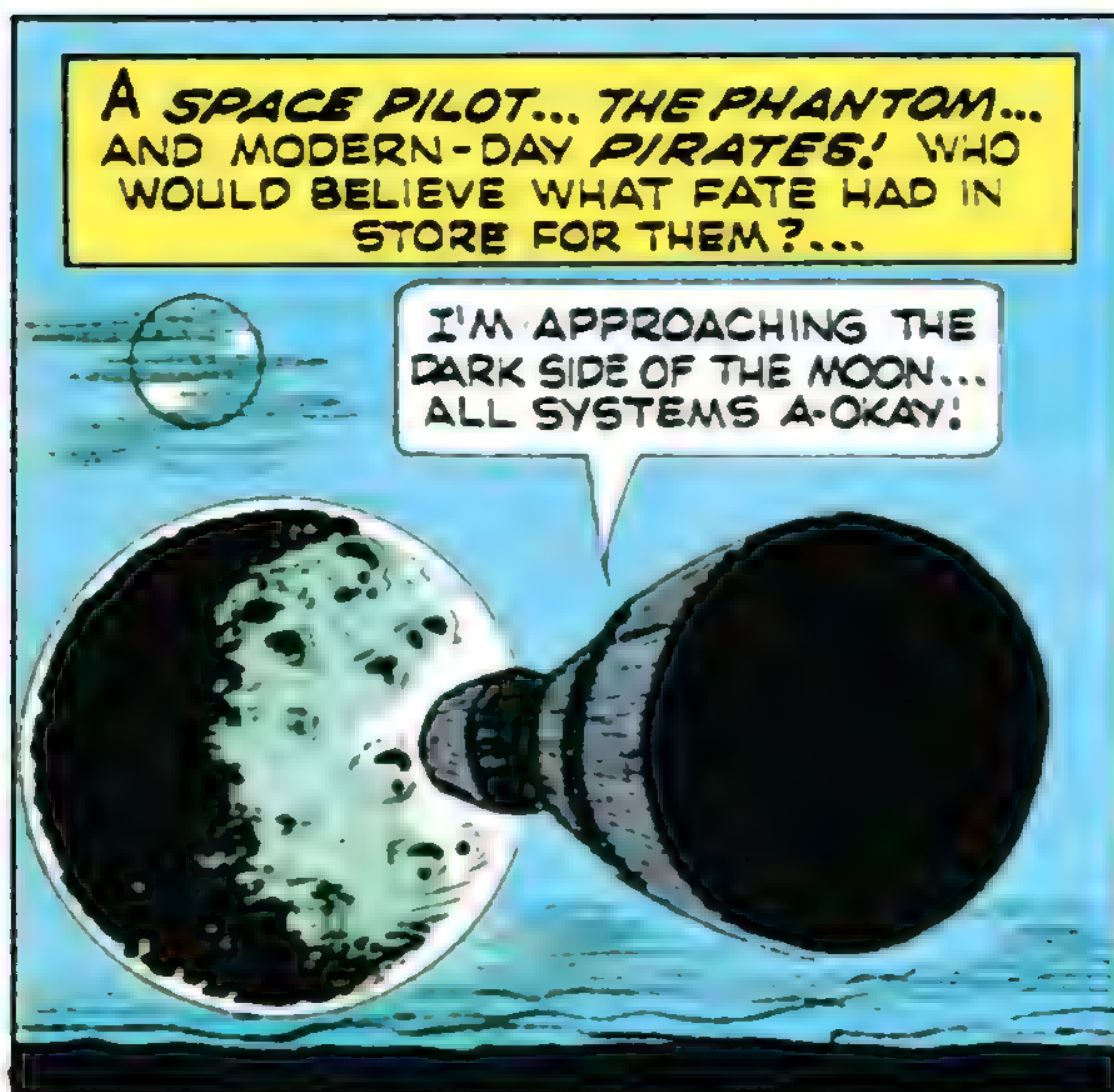
WE ARE IN THE FINAL
COUNTDOWN OF WHAT COULD BE
MANKIND'S MOST REMARKABLE
VOYAGE... *AN ORBIT AROUND
THE MOON!* COL. NELSON IS
READY... ALL STAGES ARE GO...
THE COUNT IS —

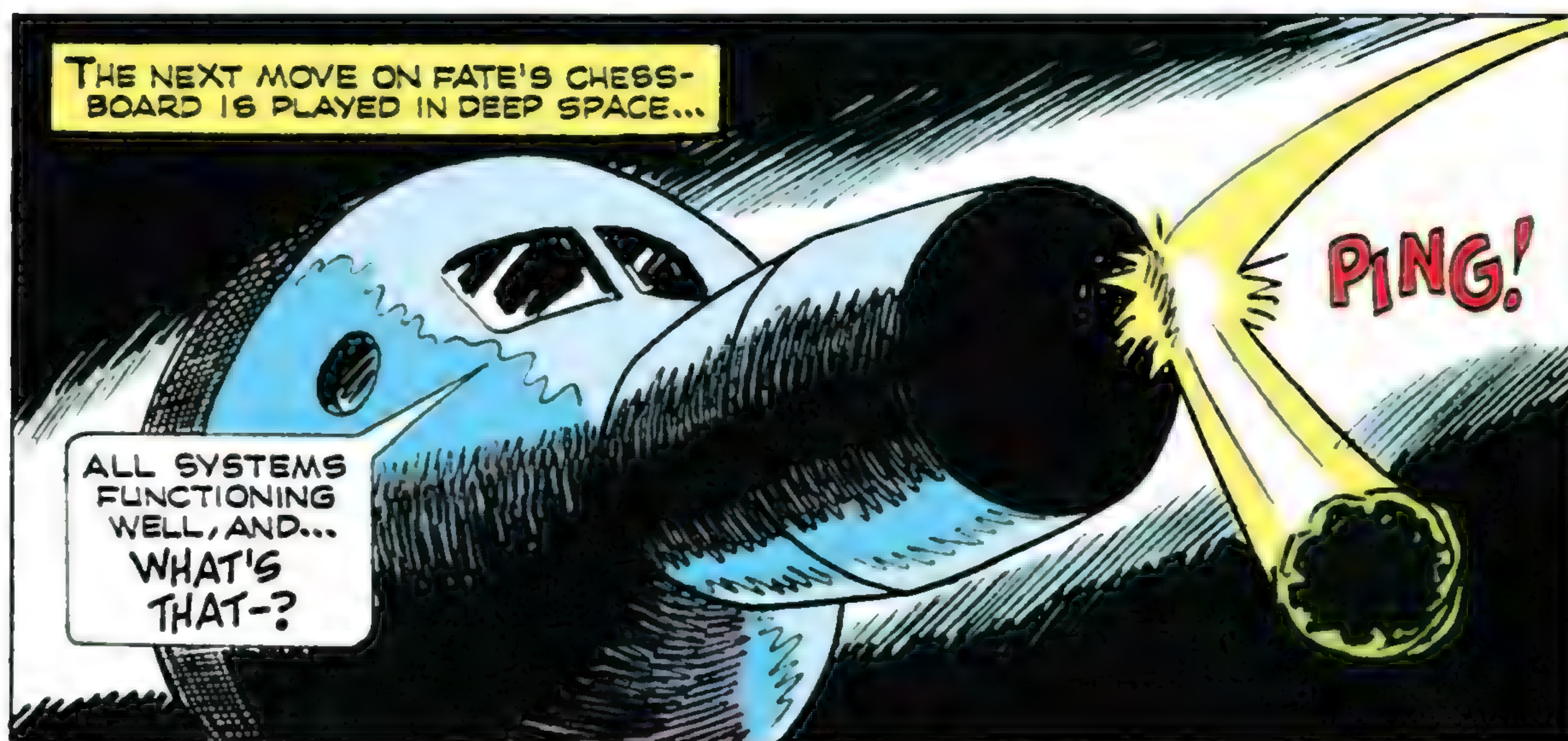
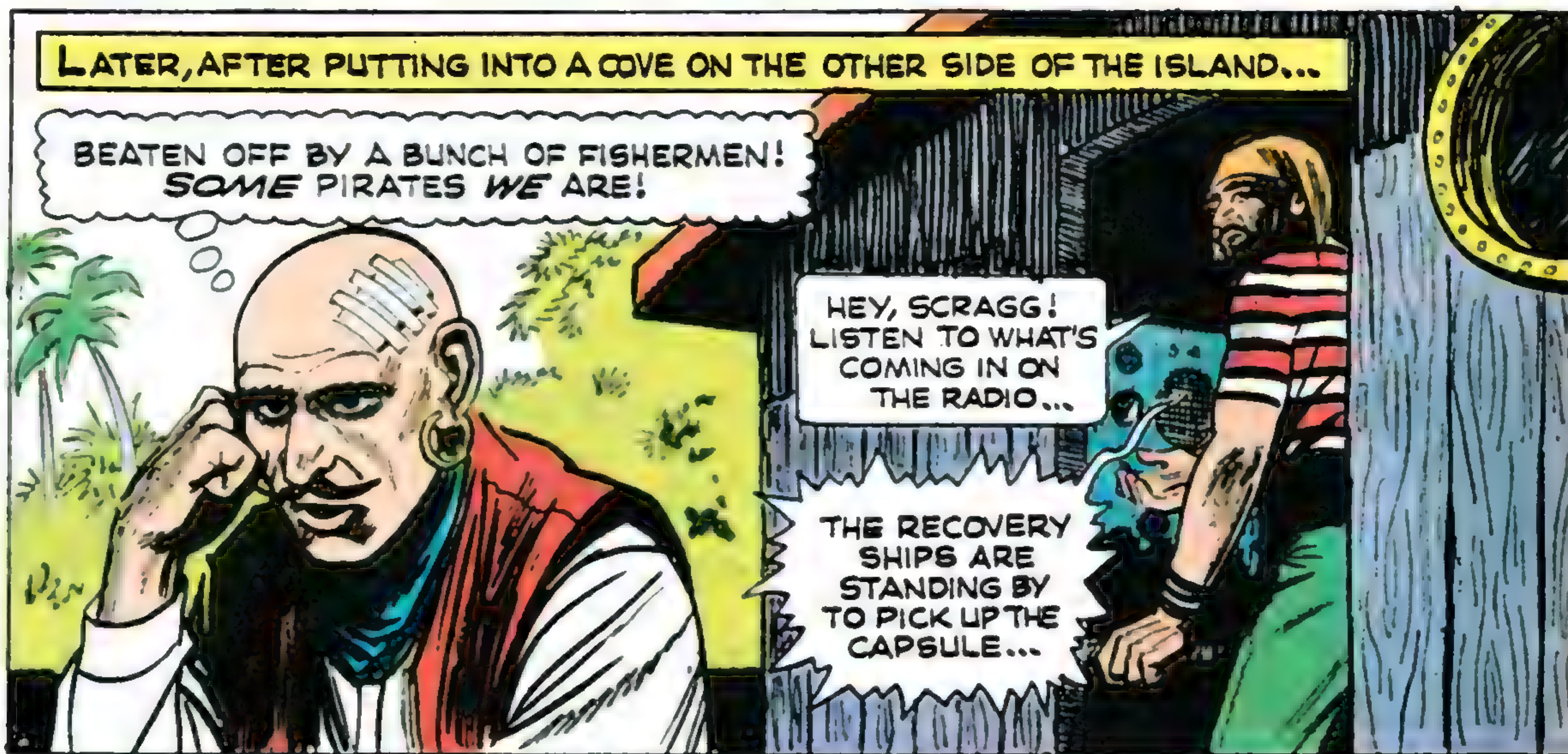
SEVEN
SIX
FIVE
FOUR
THREE
TWO
ONE
LIFT OFF!



Ray Leonard







ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES IN SPACE, THE TINY CAPSULE PLUMMETS WILDLY TOWARD EARTH...



WHILE ON A BEAUTIFUL SERENE ISLAND, SCRAGG'S PIRATES WITNESS A STRANGE SIGHT...

A LION AND TIGER PLAYING TOGETHER... CATCHING FISH! I SAW THEM!

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?

SHOW ME!



WE MUST WARN GHOST WHO WALKS!



AND SOON JUNGLE DRUMS SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...

STRANGERS... ON EDEN... WITH GUNS...

NO WORD HAS YET BEEN HEARD FROM COL. NELSON!



CAN'T HAVE ANY KILLING ON EDEN! I'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH THE SPACE FLIGHT LATER!





HOPE I'M
IN TIME!



HAND-OVER-HAND
HE SWINGS ACROSS
A RIVER FILLED
WITH THE DEADLY
PIRANHA FISH...

THOSE BIG CATS
HAVE NEVER
KNOWN THE
TASTE OF
BLOOD...

...THEY MUST
NEVER
KNOW IT!



MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE ISLAND...

STRIKE ME DOWN WITH A
FEATHER... A LION AND AN
ANTELOPE ROMPING
TOGETHER LIKE OLD PALS!

THAT LION SHOULD'VE
GOBBLED THE
ANTELOPE IN A WINK!

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?



THAT ANTELOPE
WILL MAKE A
TASTY DINNER
FOR... **WHAT?!**

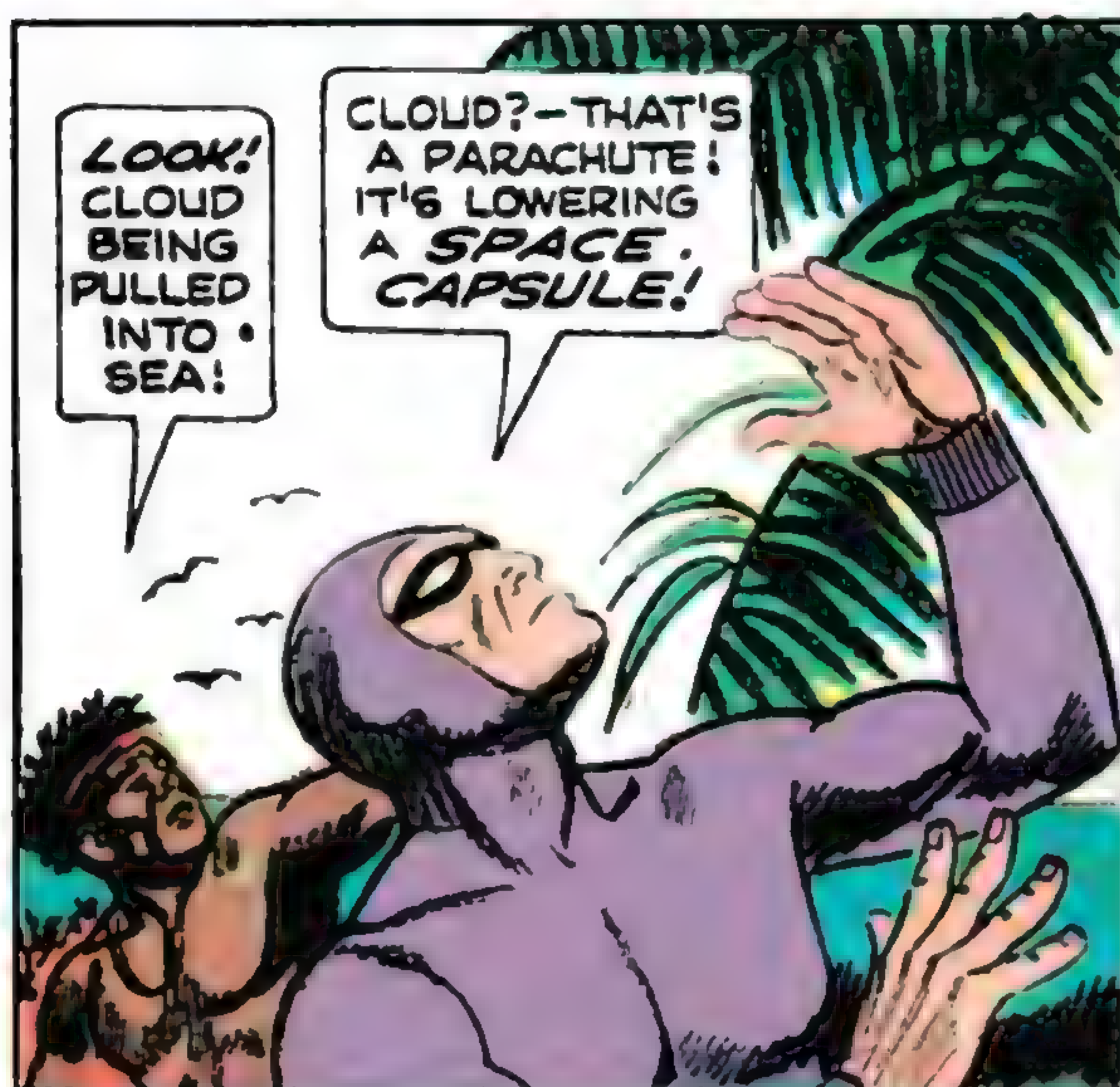
THUMP!



WHERE'D THIS ARROW
COME FROM? I DON'T
SEE A SOUL AROUND!

IT'S A
PYGMY
POISON
ARROW!

LET'S GET
OUT OF
HERE
FAST!





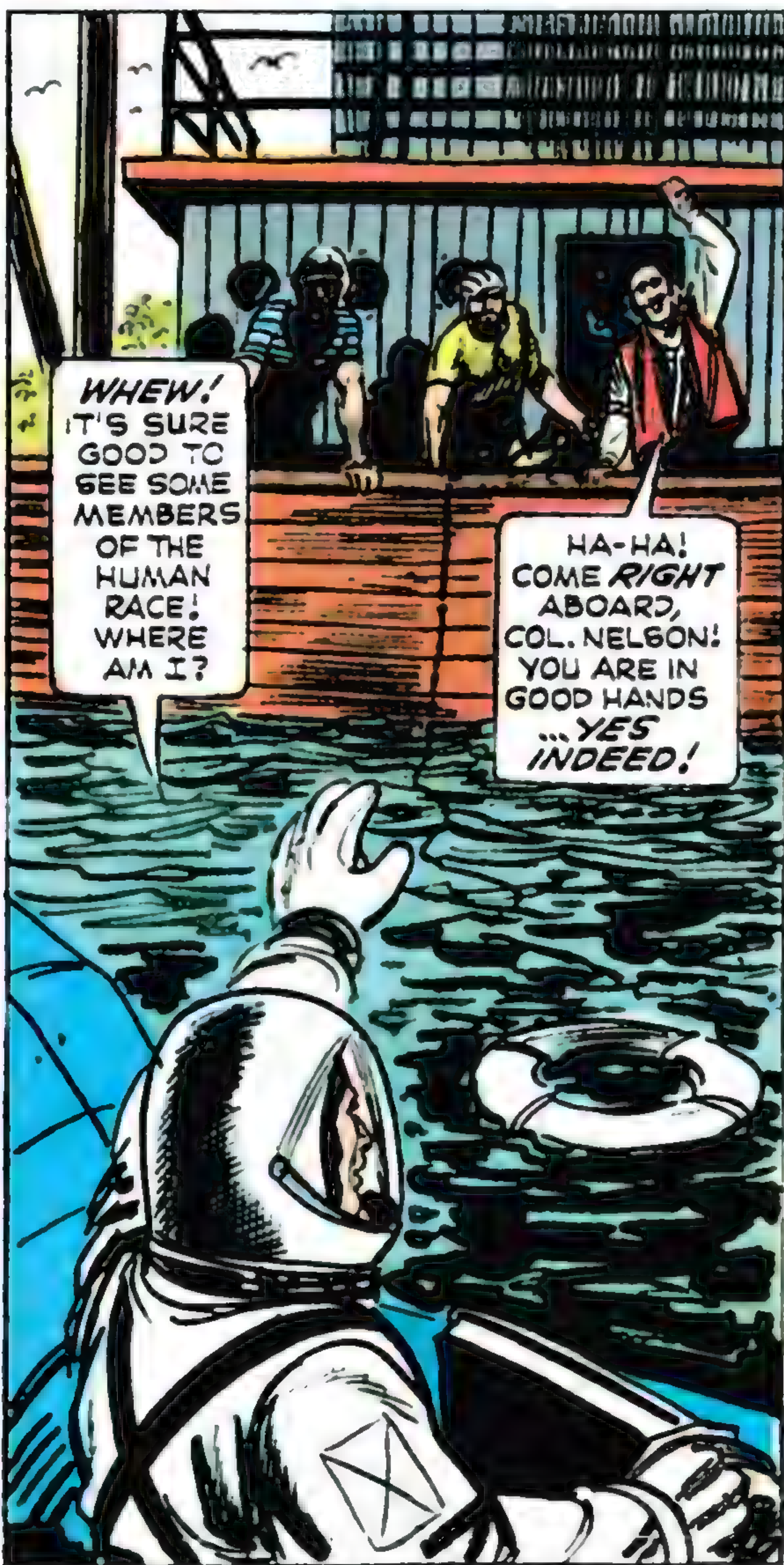
TO PHANTOM'S EDEN ISLE—

GHOST WHO WALKS
NEEDS HELP!



THAT'S HIM—THE SPACE GUY WE
HEARD ABOUT ON OUR RADIO!

BOYS...WE'VE FOUND OUR-
SELVES A **BONANZA!**



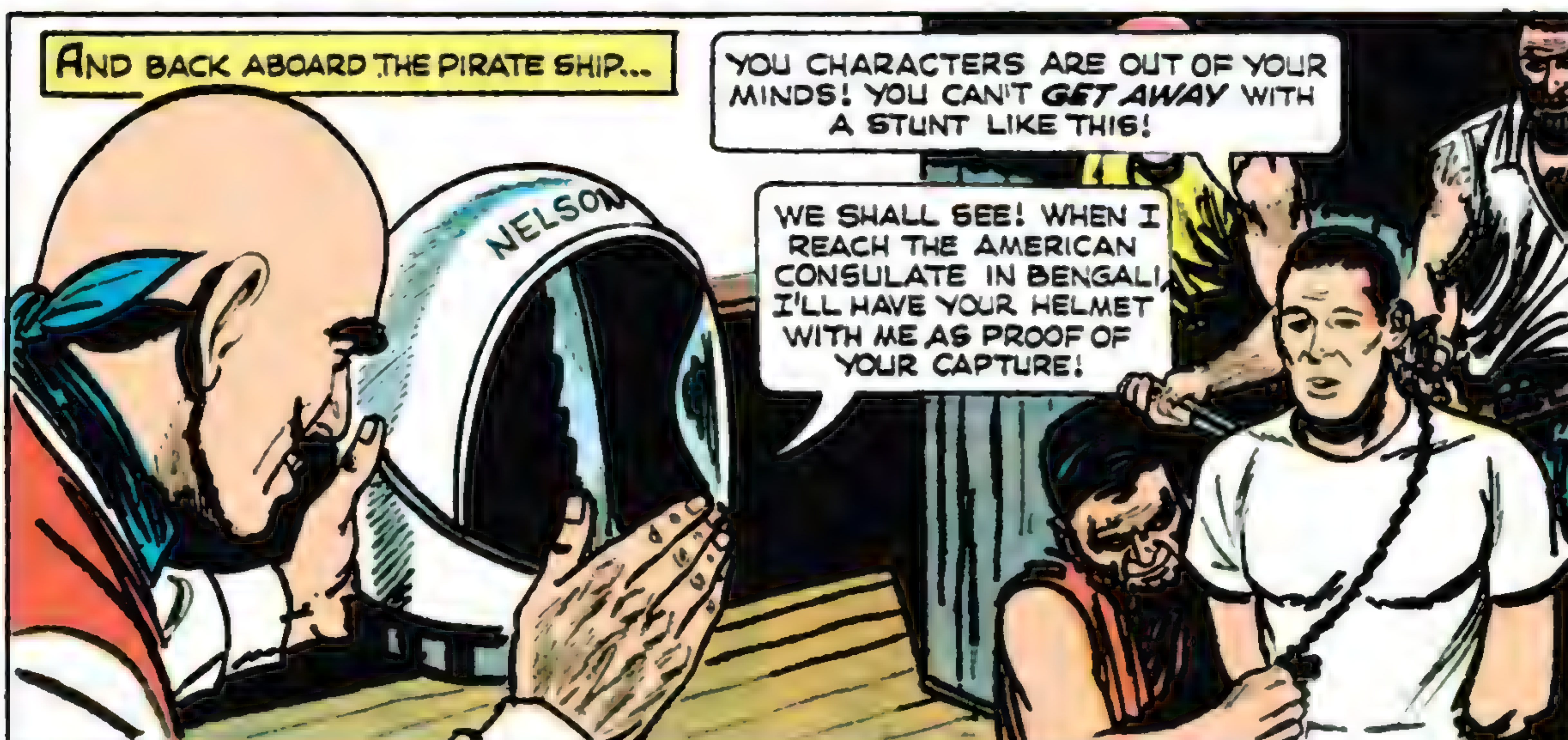
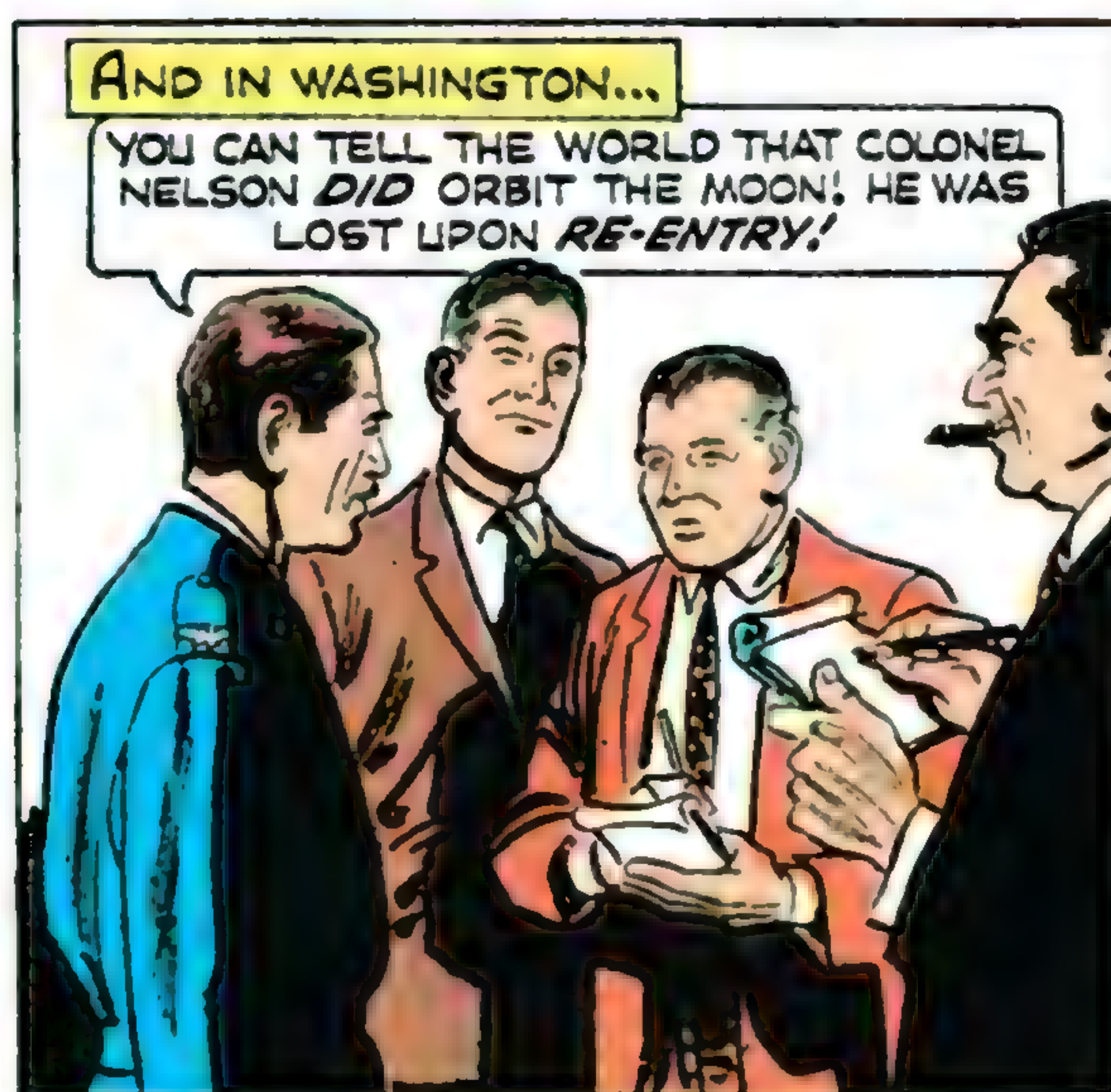
WHEW!
IT'S SURE
GOOD TO
SEE SOME
MEMBERS
OF THE
HUMAN
RACE!
WHERE
AM I?

HA-HA!
COME *RIGHT*
ABOARD,
COL. NELSON!
YOU ARE IN
GOOD HANDS
...**YES**
INDEED!

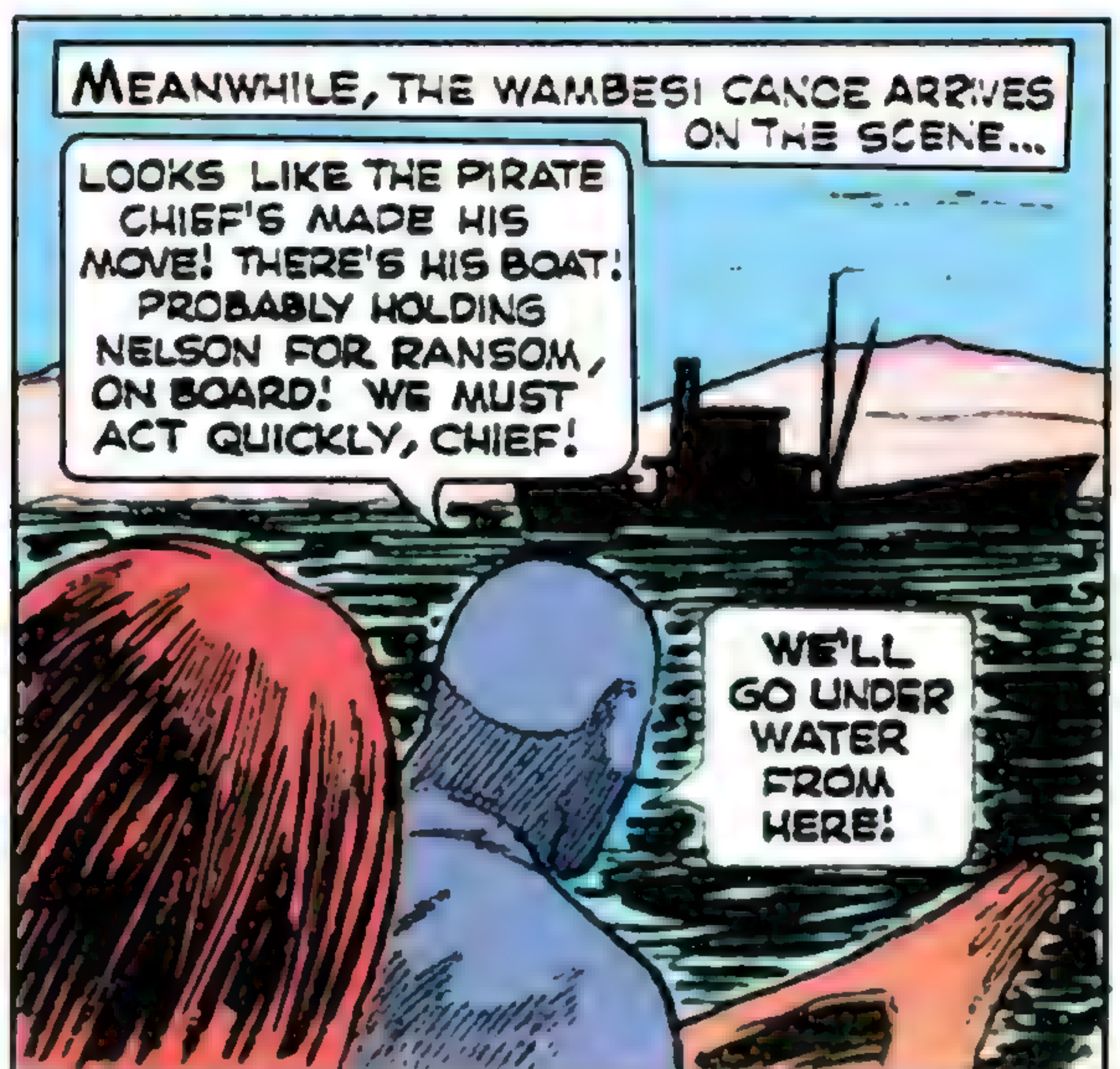


WELCOME! WELCOME!
COLONEL, JUST HOW MUCH
DO YOU FIGURE THE FIRST MAN
TO GO AROUND THE MOON AND
BACK IS WORTH ON THE OPEN
MARKET? **HA-HA-HA-HA!**

H-HUH?







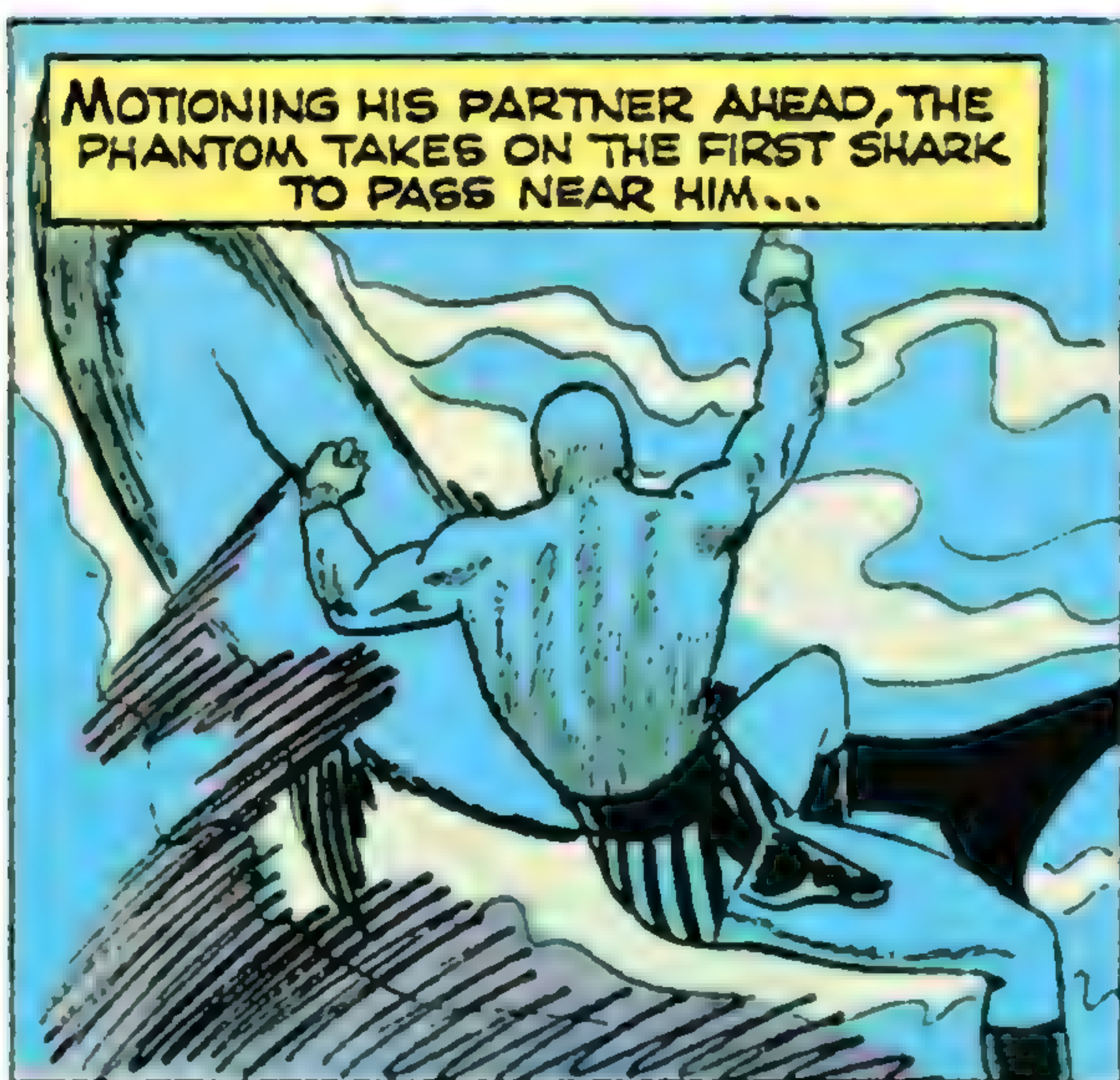


MANY SHARKS
IN THESE
WATERS!

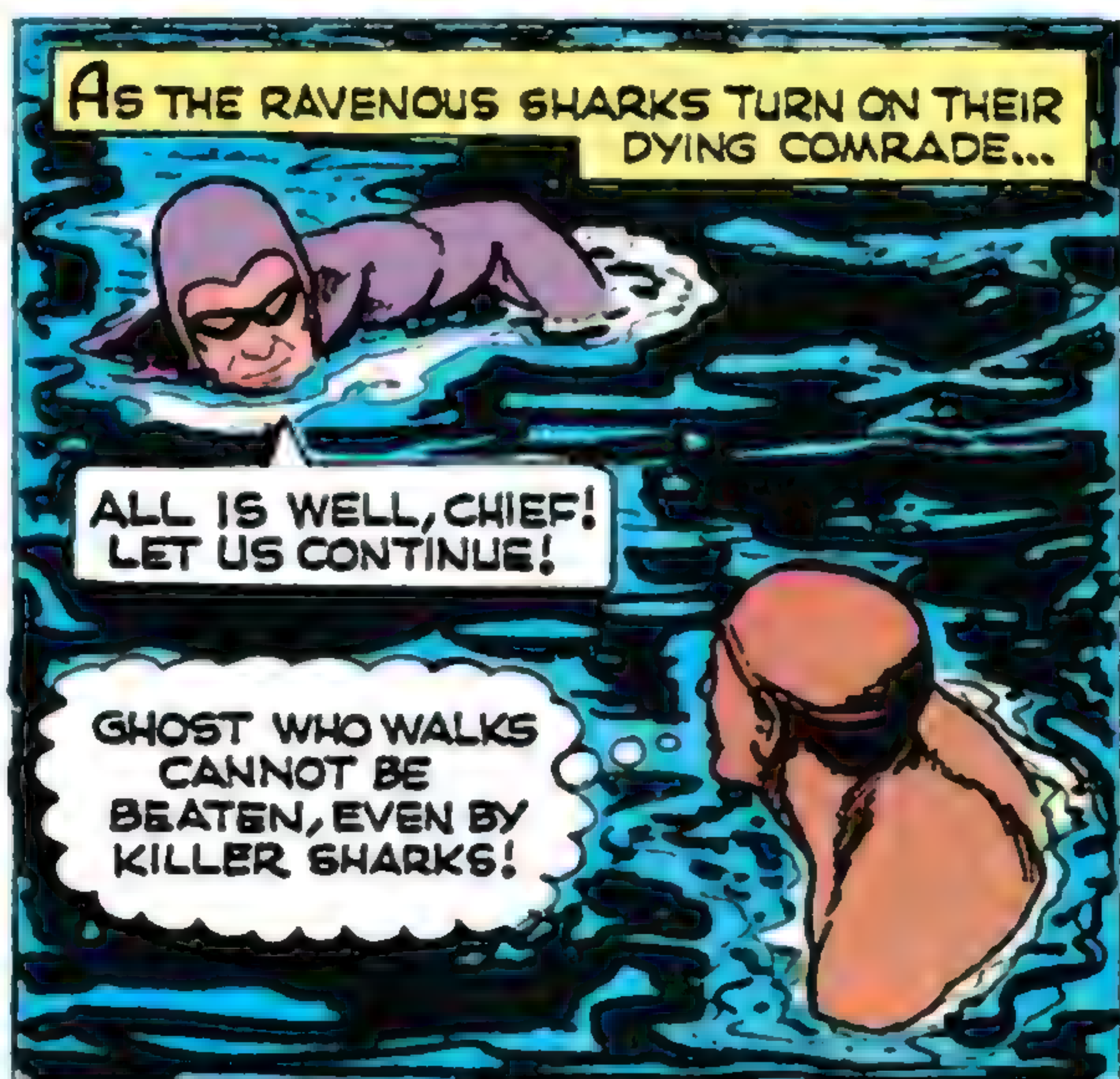
WE'LL KEEP OUR
EYES OPEN AND
OUR KNIVES READY!



SHARKS!
I MUST KILL
ONE TO KEEP
THE OTHERS
BUSY!



MOTIONING HIS PARTNER AHEAD, THE
PHANTOM TAKES ON THE FIRST SHARK
TO PASS NEAR HIM...



AS THE RAVENOUS SHARKS TURN ON THEIR
DYING COMRADE...

ALL IS WELL, CHIEF!
LET US CONTINUE!

GHOST WHO WALKS
CANNOT BE
BEATEN, EVEN BY
KILLER SHARKS!



AS THE CHIEF AND PHANTOM APPROACH THE PIRATE SHIP...

EVEN IF THEY SEND
THE ARMY AND NAVY,
THEY WON'T DARE
ATTACK US AS LONG
AS HE'S ON BOARD!

RIGHT! IF
HE DIES,
THEY'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
PROVE HE
REALLY
FLEW
AROUND
THE
MOON!

AND HE
DIES IF
ANYONE
TRIES TO
GET TO
HIM!

YOU
DIRTY...





THE PHANTOM MAKES SHORT WORK OF THE PIRATES...

THANKS...ER, MISTER! YOU CAME IN THE NICK OF TIME!

WE MUST HURRY! THERE'S PLENTY TO DO YET!



WHAT'S THAT FOR?

THE WAMBESI HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED! THEY BROUGHT ME HERE AND THEY'LL GET US TO SHORE!



AND FROM THE BRIDGE OF A DESTROYER ORDERED TO THE SCENE...

OUR ORDERS ARE NOT TO SEIZE NELSON...NO MATTER *WHAT!* HOWEVER, HE SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD HANDS!



THE PIRATE CHIEF IS IN FOR A SURPRISE, COLONEL...IF HE HASN'T *ESCAPED* WITH THE MONEY YET!

IT'S ALL LIKE A DREAM! FIRST A TRIP AROUND THE MOON...AND NOW A RIDE IN A NATIVE WAR CANOE! *WHEW!*

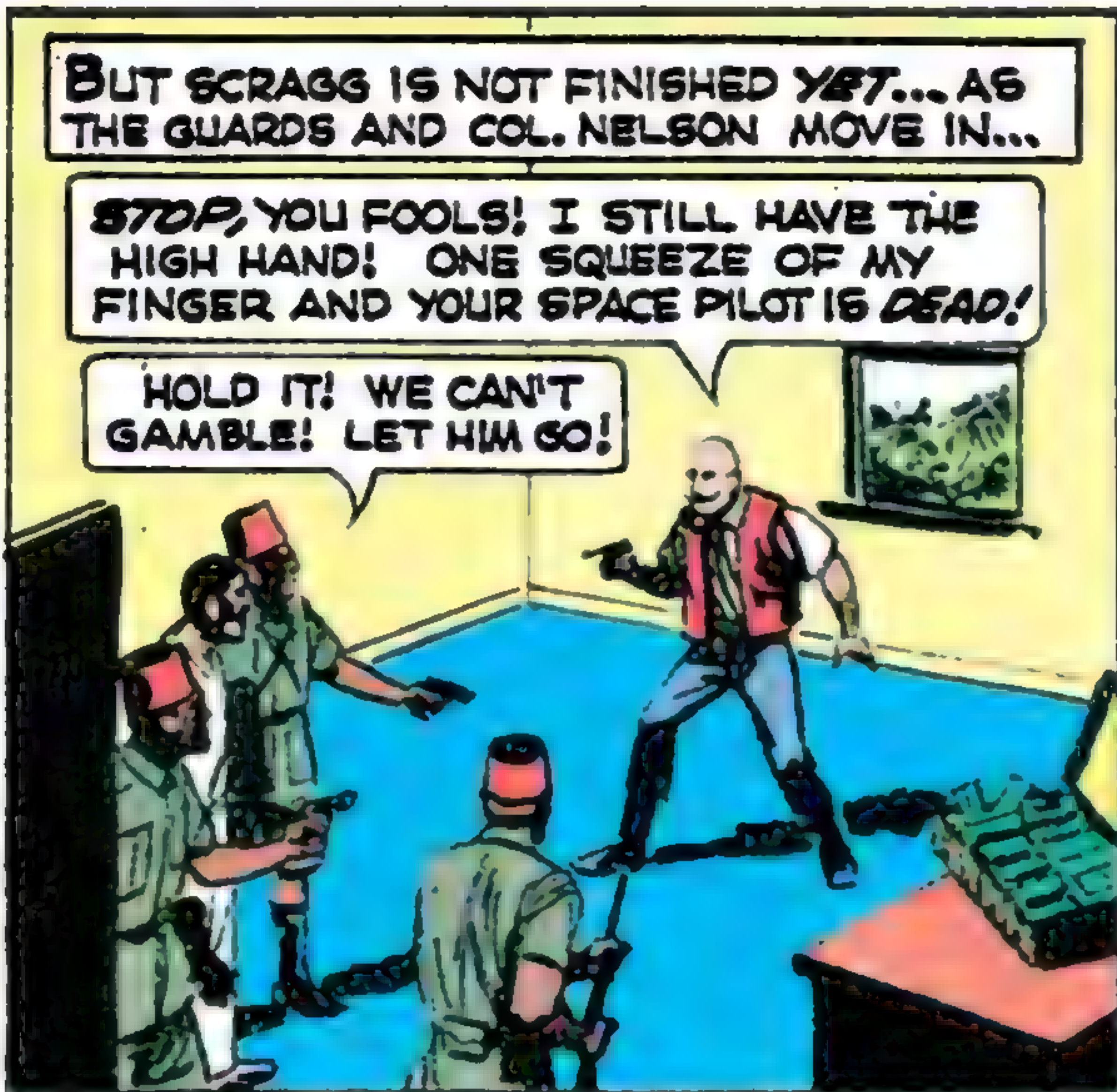


AH! FINE, GENTLEMEN! I'LL RELEASE COL. NELSON AS SOON AS I RETURN TO MY SHIP!

THE MILLIONS YOU ASKED FOR, SCRAGG!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE CONSULATE...

YOU WON'T HAVE TO, SCRAGG...



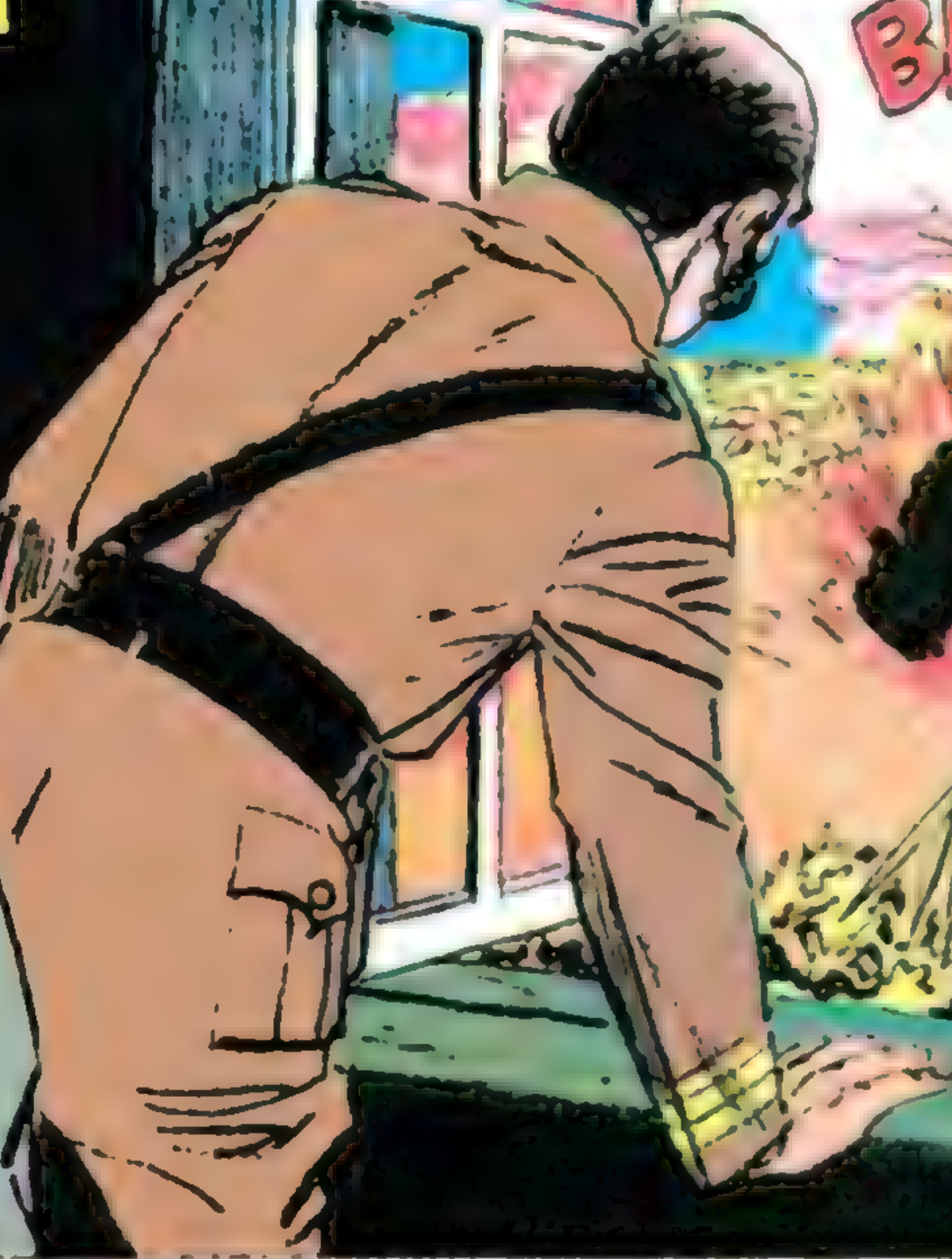
THE
PHANTOM

the MASKED EMISSARY

NEAR THE EDGE OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE, ARMED REVOLT FLARES IN THE STREETS! THE PEOPLE ARE REBELLING AGAINST BABABU, THE HATED TYRANT, WHO HAS DRIVEN THEIR ELECTED PREMIER, LUAGA, FROM OFFICE...

M-MORE OF LUAGA'S FOLLOWERS. THEY HAVE BOMBED YOUR STATUE IN THE SQUARE, CAPTAIN BABABU!

BLAM!

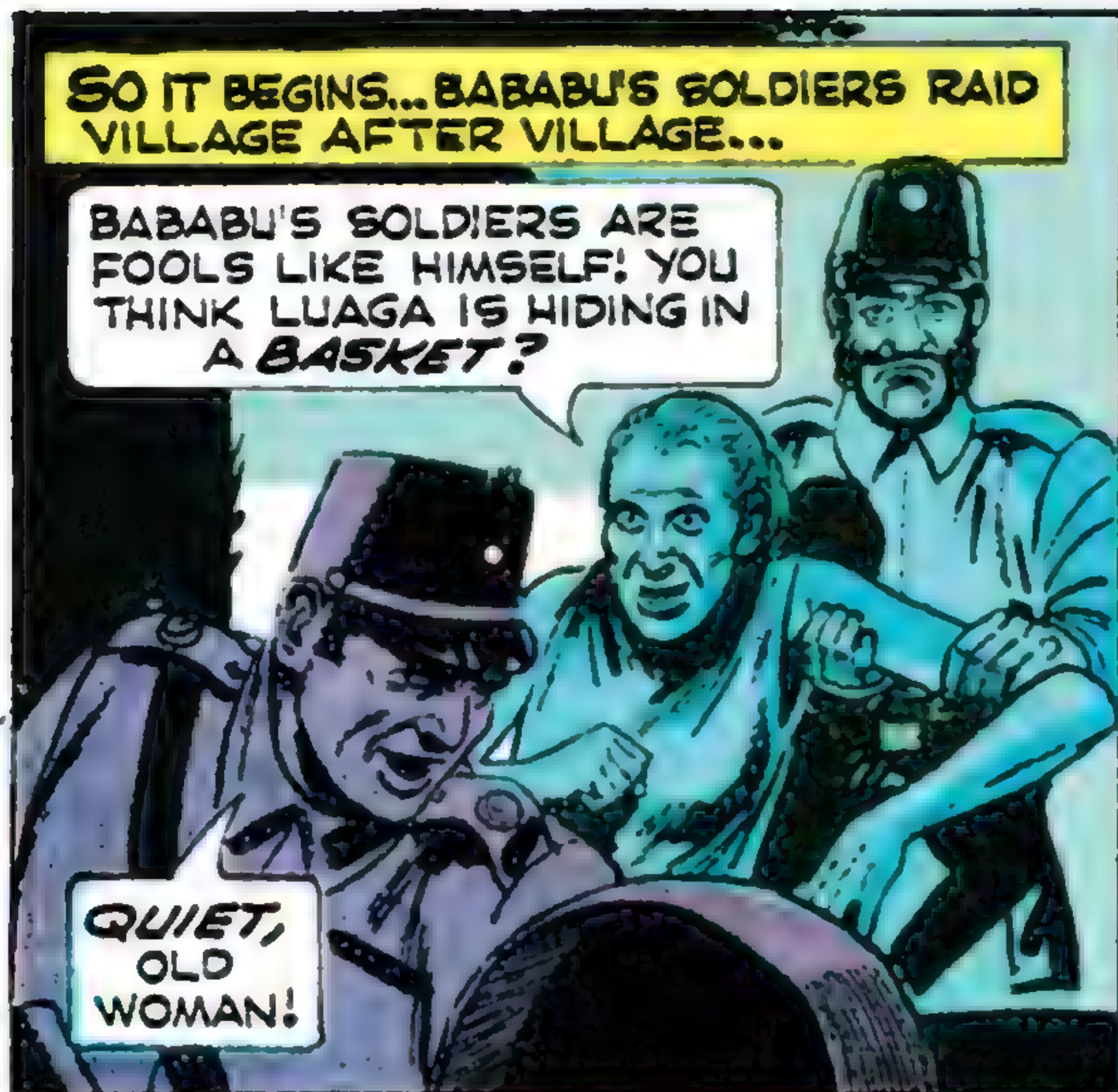


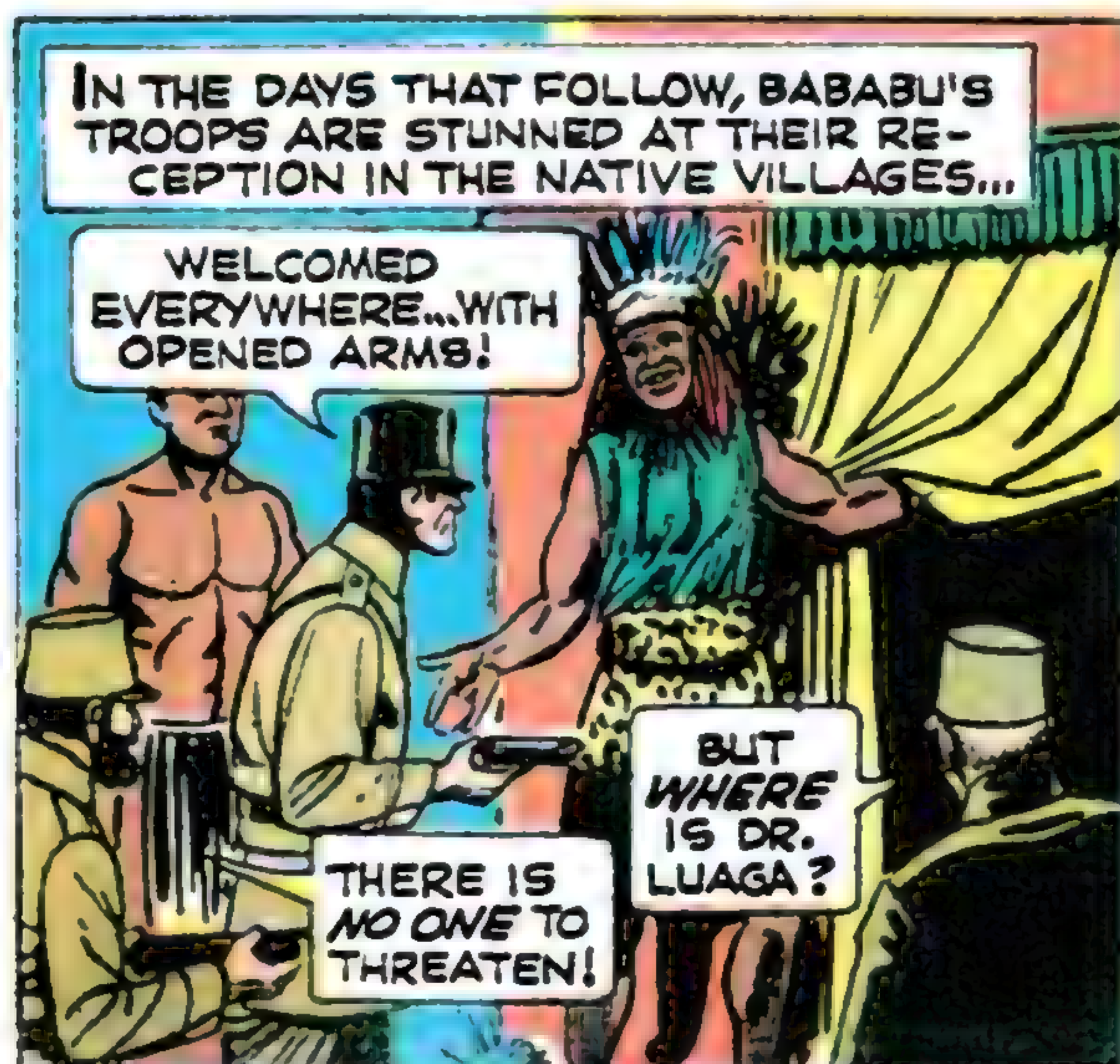
WE MUST *FIND* LUAGA! UNTIL HE IS SOUGHT OUT AND PUNISHED PROPERLY BEFORE THESE VERMIN THEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE HOPE HE WILL *REGAIN* POWER!



HE IS HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE JUNGLE SOUTH OF HERE! *FIND HIM!*











A GUARD'S HAT HIDES THE PHANTOM'S FACE AS HE DRIVES THE CAR OUT OF THE CAMP...

I'LL HAVE TO DRIVE FAST SO THE GUARDS CAN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT MY UNCONSCIOUS PASSENGERS... BUT NOT SO FAST THAT THEY'LL BE SUSPICIOUS!

SOMETHING IMPORTANT MUST HAVE COME UP... THE PREMIER IS IN A HURRY!

AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE...

NOTIFY THE VILLAGE CHIEFS THAT I WANT TO SEE THEM IN THE SKULL CAVE AT ONCE!

IT WILL BE DONE, O GHOST WHO WALKS!

A FEW HOURS LATER IN THE DEEP WOODS...

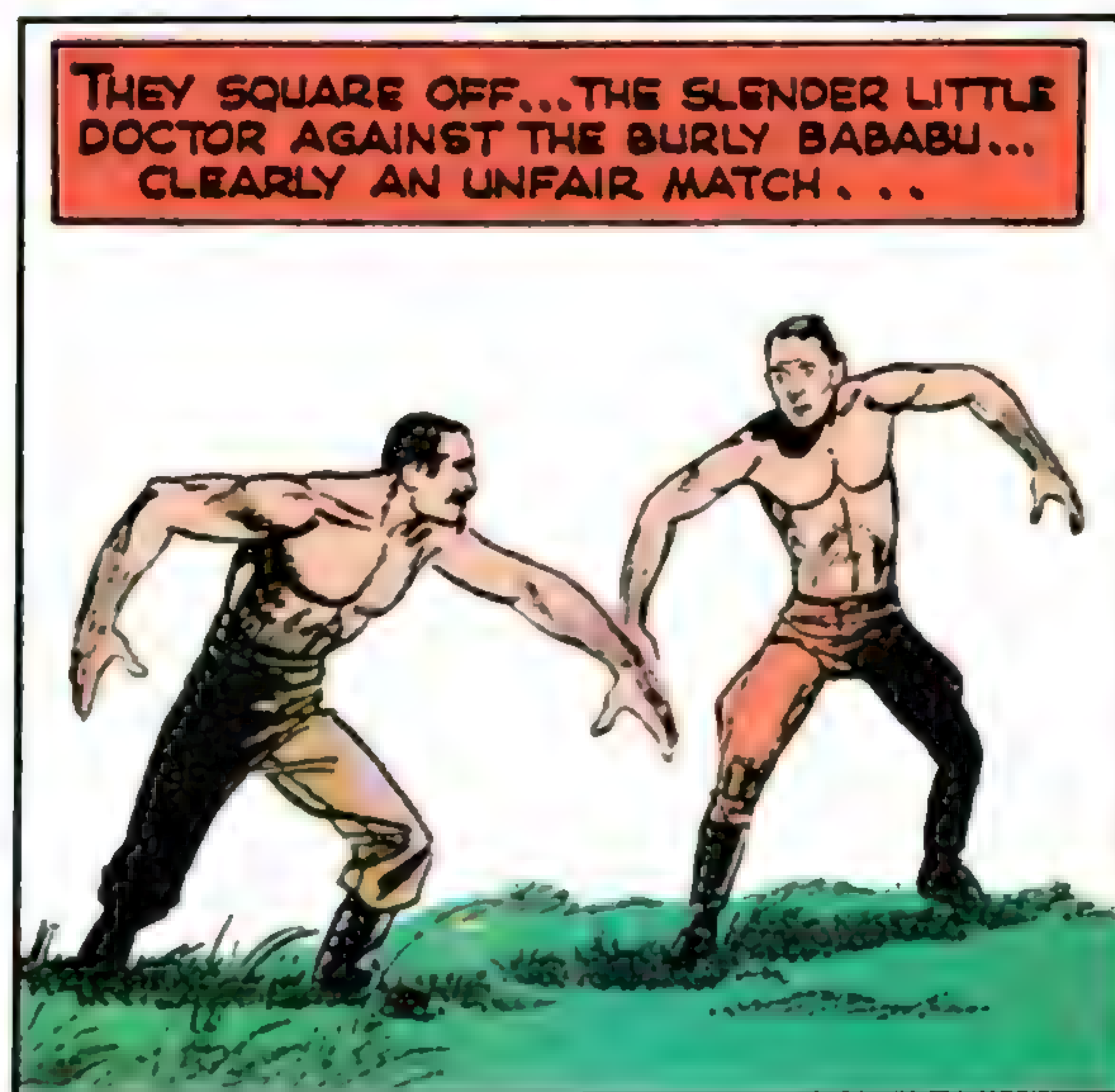
BABABU, YOU ARE HERE TO BE JUDGED BY THE CHIEFS FOR STEALING THE OFFICE OF LUAGA, THE RIGHTFUL PREMIER!

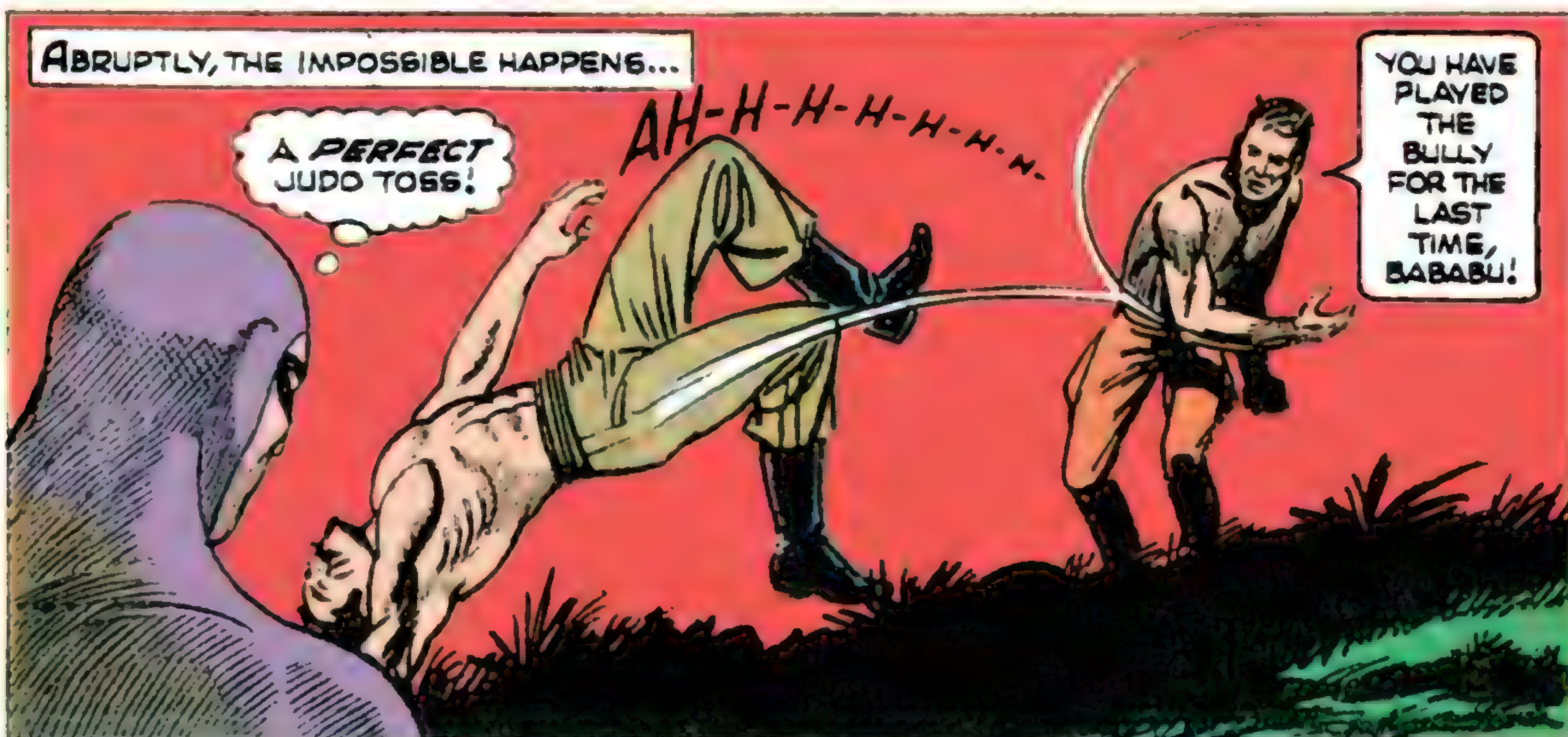
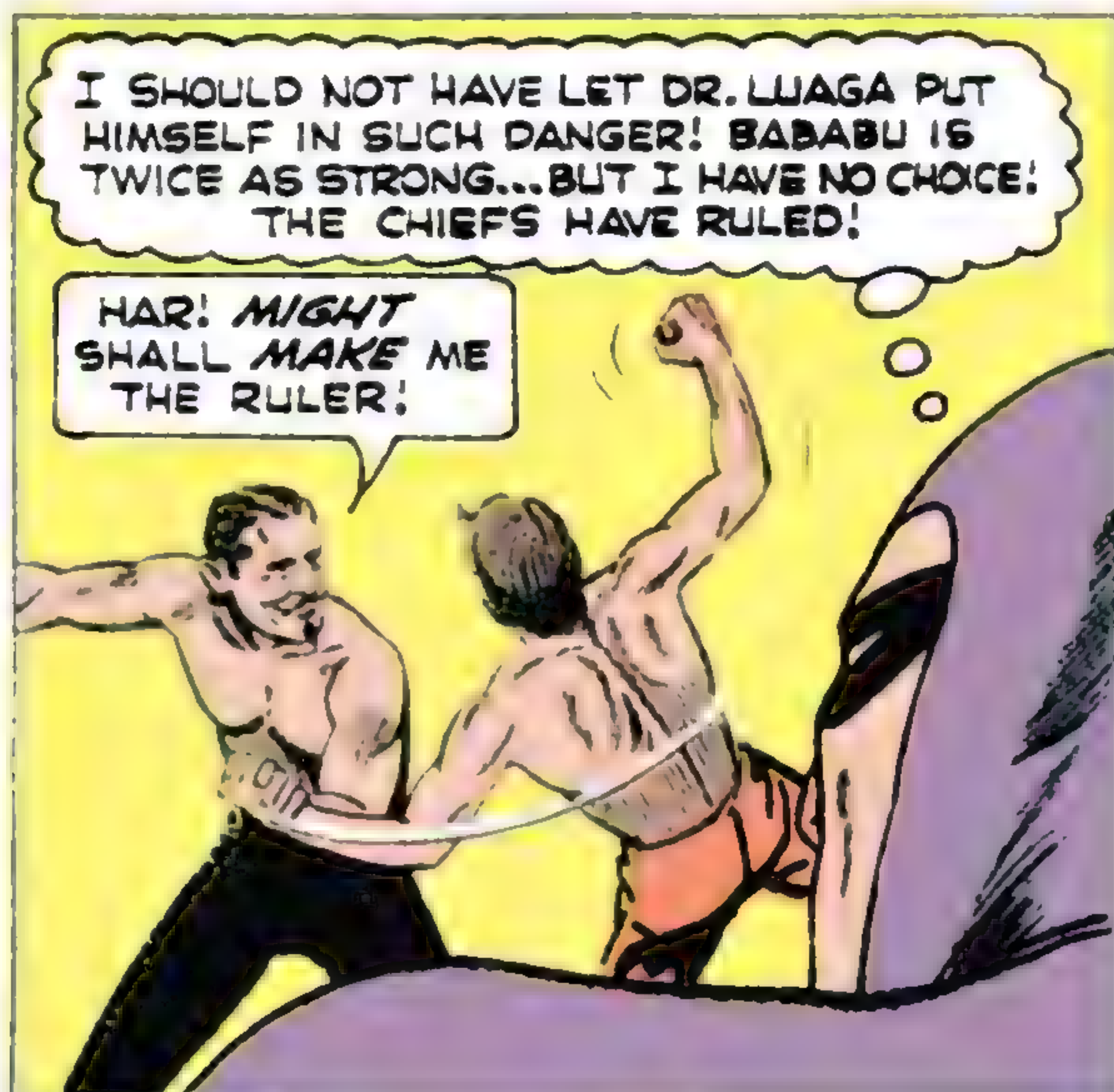
BOSH! HOW CAN THEY JUDGE?

AND WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO JUDGE ME?

ALL THE RIGHT IN THE WORLD, BABABU! I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED OFFICIAL EMISSARY BY THE U.N., AND THE CHIEFS ARE ALL RULERS!

YES, SHALL IT BE TRIAL BY FIRE?





AGAIN AND AGAIN LUAGA EXECUTES PERFECT JUDO TOSSES TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE PHANTOM...

SWISH!



ONE MORE TIME...

YA-H-H-H-



AND FINALLY...

KILL KILL

WAIT! I AM A DOCTOR! I ~~SAVE~~ LIVES, NOT TAKE THEM! YOU MUST JUDGE HIM FAIRLY!

WE'LL SAID, DOCTOR LUAGA!



THE "JURY" GOES INTO A HUDDLE AND SOON...

IT IS OUR DECISION THAT YOU SPEND TEN YEARS AT HARD LABOR IN THE JUNGLE, BABABU! THIS WOULD BE A MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT THAN DEATH!



I'VE A QUESTION, CHIEF! WHEN YOU AGREED TO LET DR. LUAGA FIGHT, YOU ~~KNEW~~ HE WAS AN EXPERT JUDO MAN, DIDN'T YOU?

YES, PHANTOM! ALL KNOW THAT LUAGA IS A PROFESSOR OF THE JUDO **BLACK BELT!**



SOMETIMES THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE LAW ARE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE OF MODERN CIVILIZATION! **YES, INDEED!**





Above: unused cover production art for *The Phantom* #30.

THE PHANTOM



Now! The incredible story
of The Girl Phantom

from the Phantom Chronicles... The Adventures of
The GIRL PHANTOM

*IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SKULL CAVE,
THE OFTEN INCREDIBLE HISTORY OF
PHANTOMS PAST AND PRESENT IS
RECORDED FOR ALL TIME IN THE
CENTURIES-OLD PHANTOM CHRONICLES!*



INDEED THERE *WAS* A
FEMALE PHANTOM, DIANA!
LOOK... SHE'S MENTIONED
HERE... HER NAME WAS JULIE!
SHE WAS REALLY THE PHANTOM'S
SISTER... AND SHE TOOK HIS
PLACE TO STOP AN INVASION
OF THE DEEP WOODS!

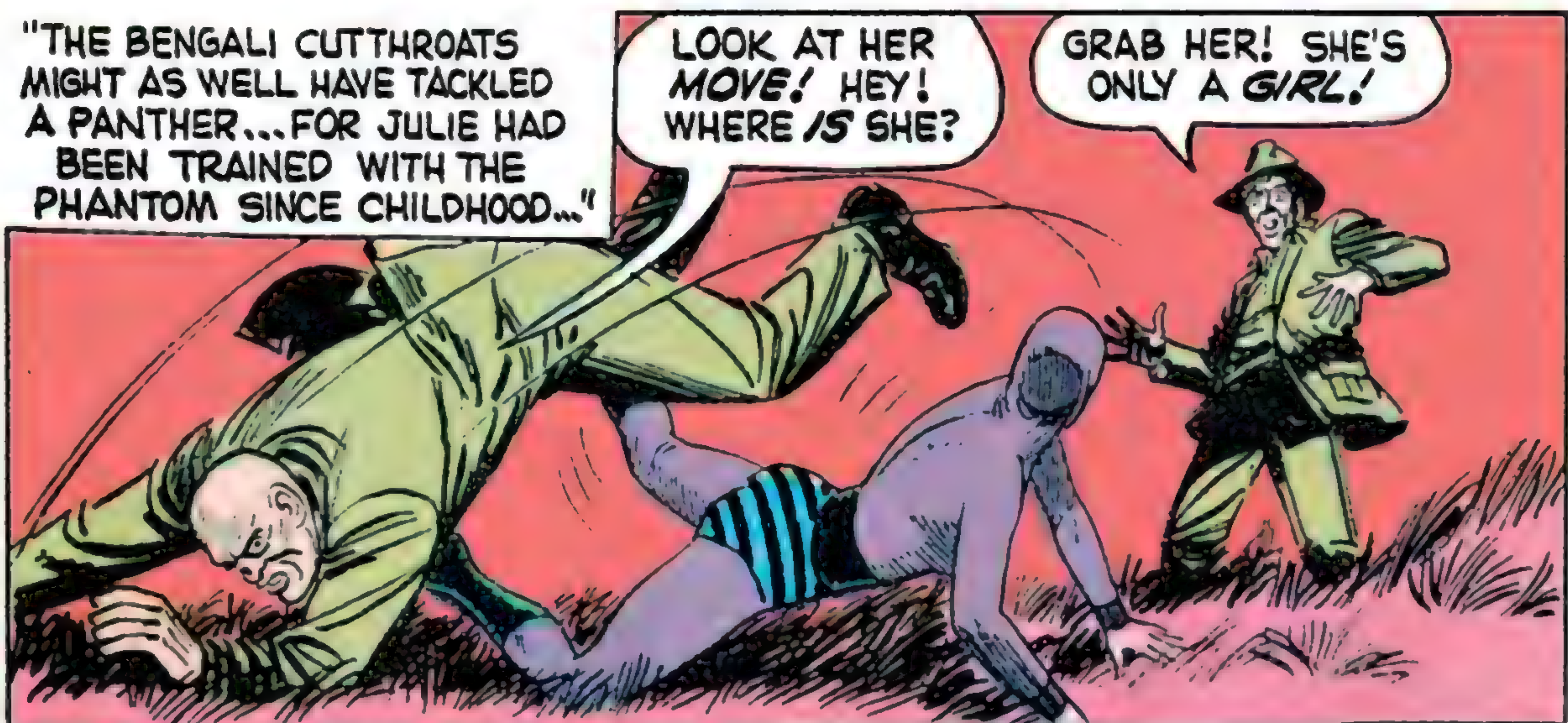
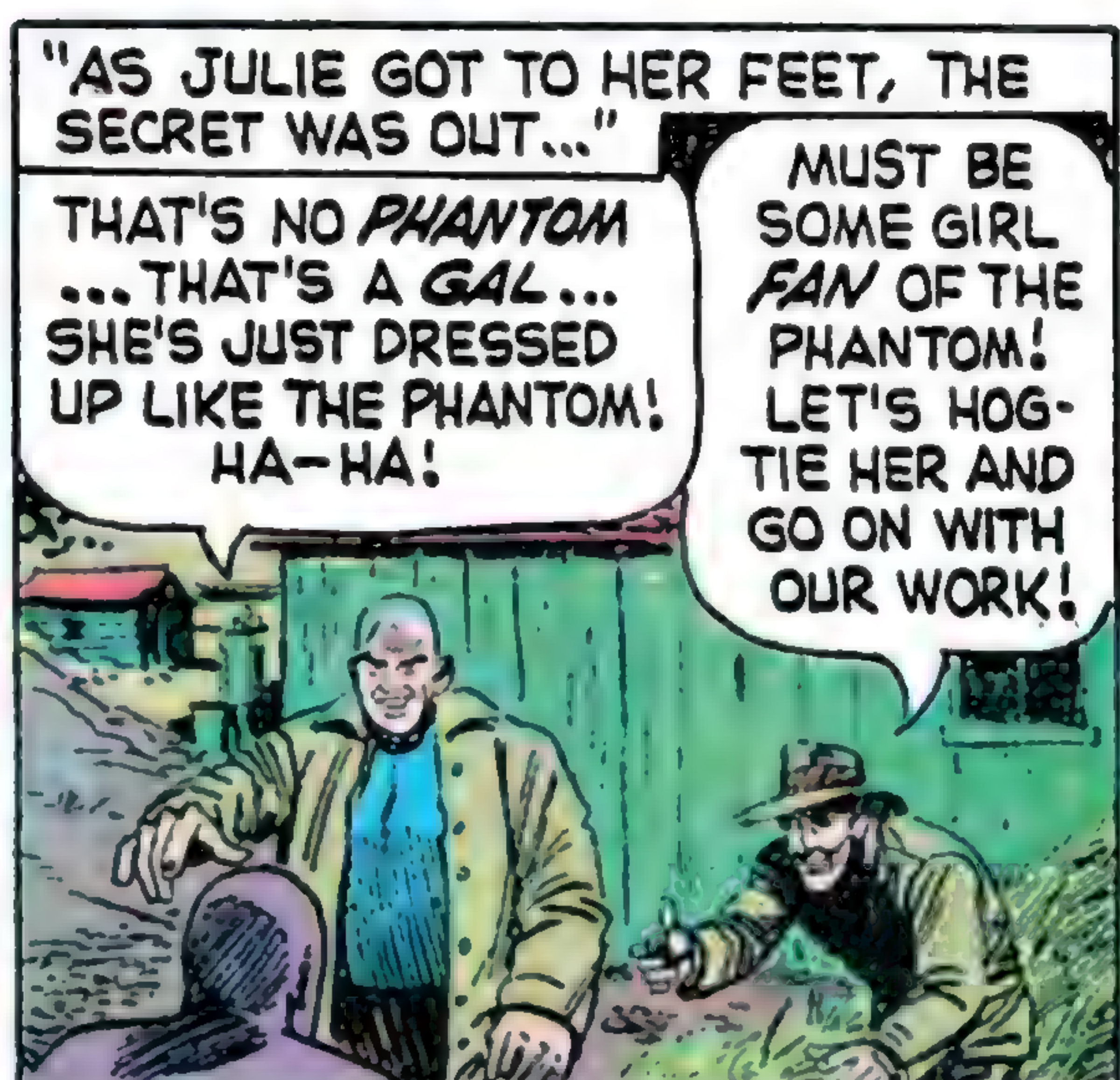
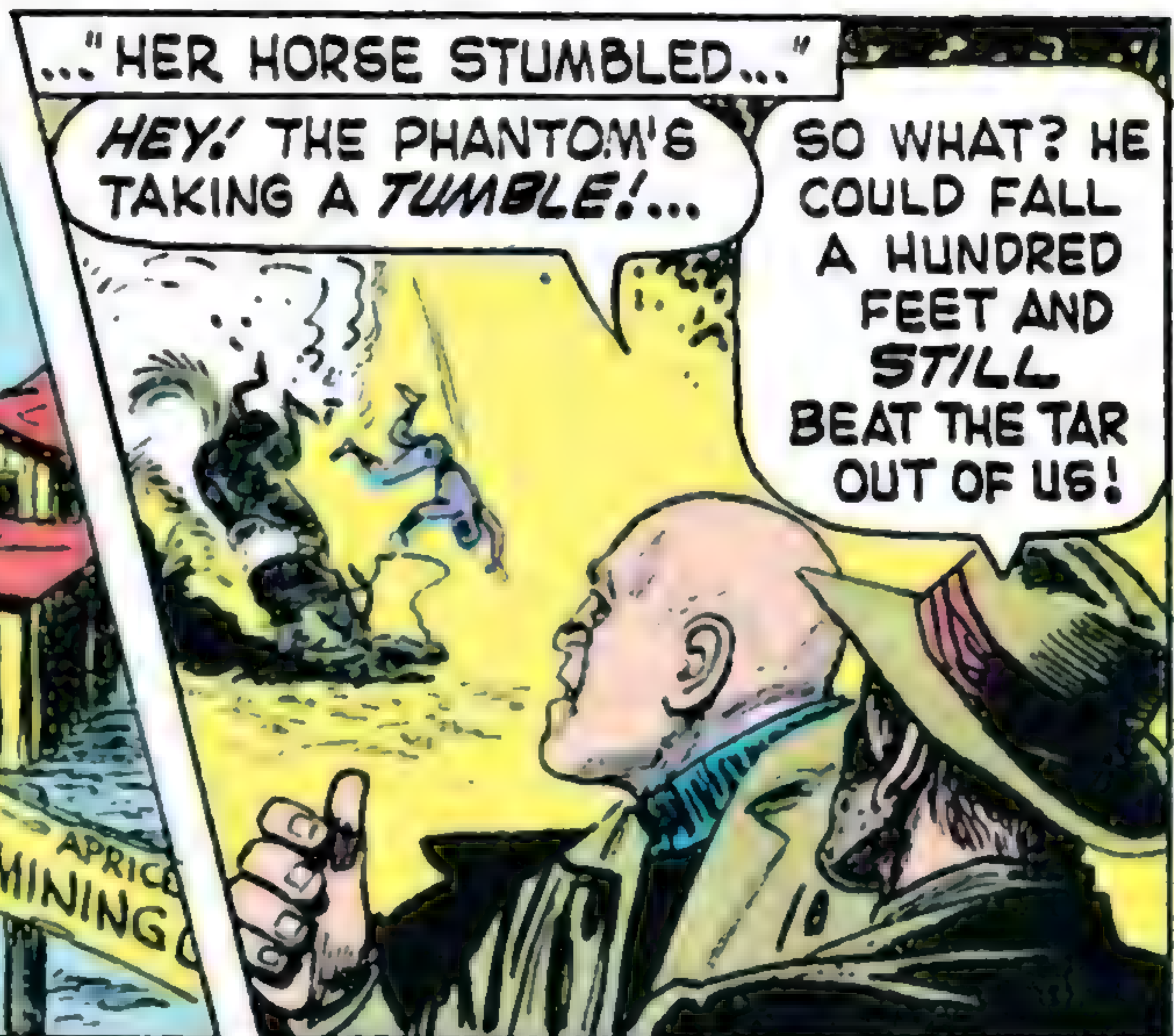
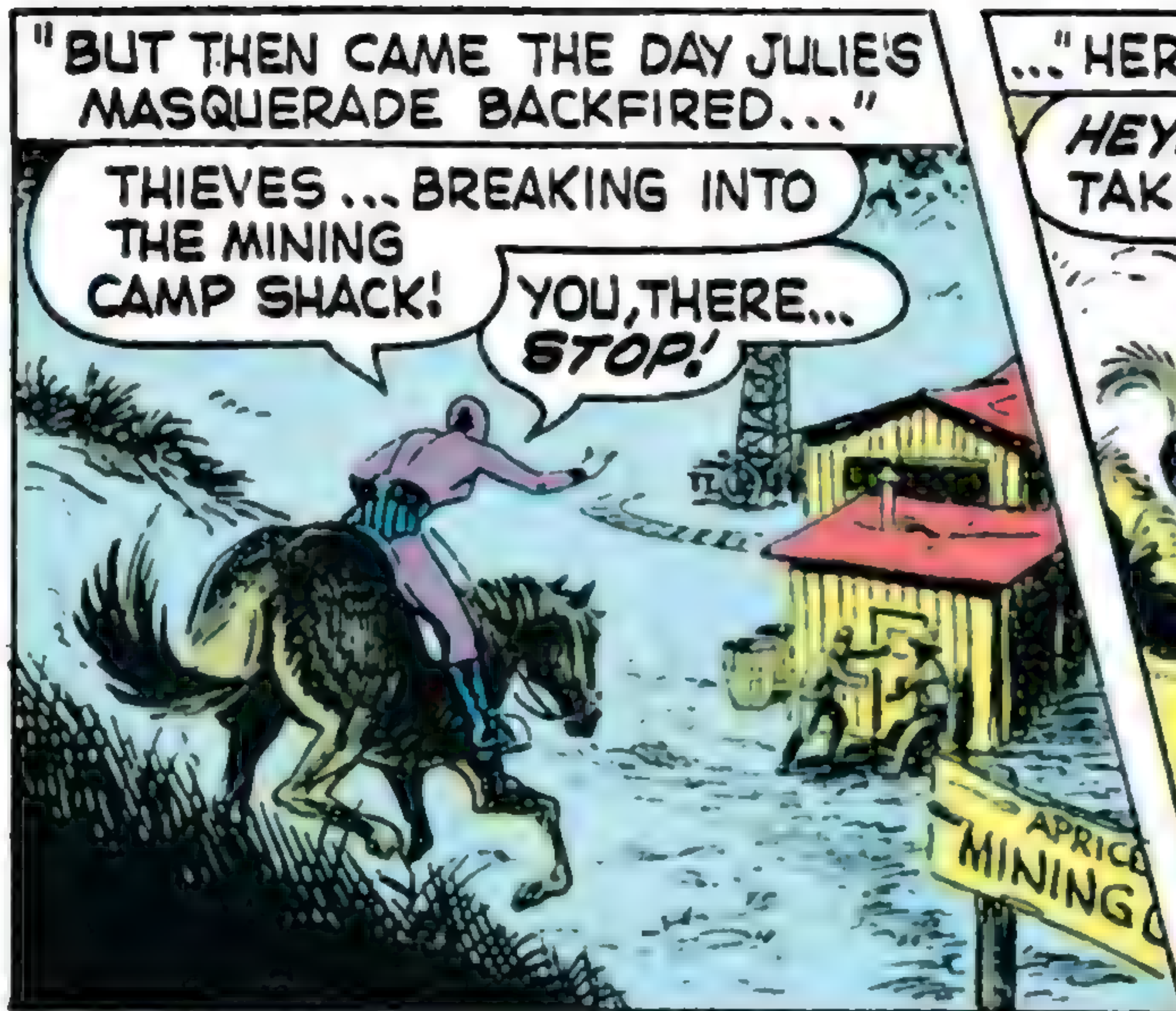
GOLLY... READ ON! LET'S
SEE WHAT *HAPPENED*!





"WHEREVER SHE APPEARED, CRIME VANISHED... BUT SHE ALWAYS REMAINED FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO CONCEAL HER TRUE IDENTITY..."



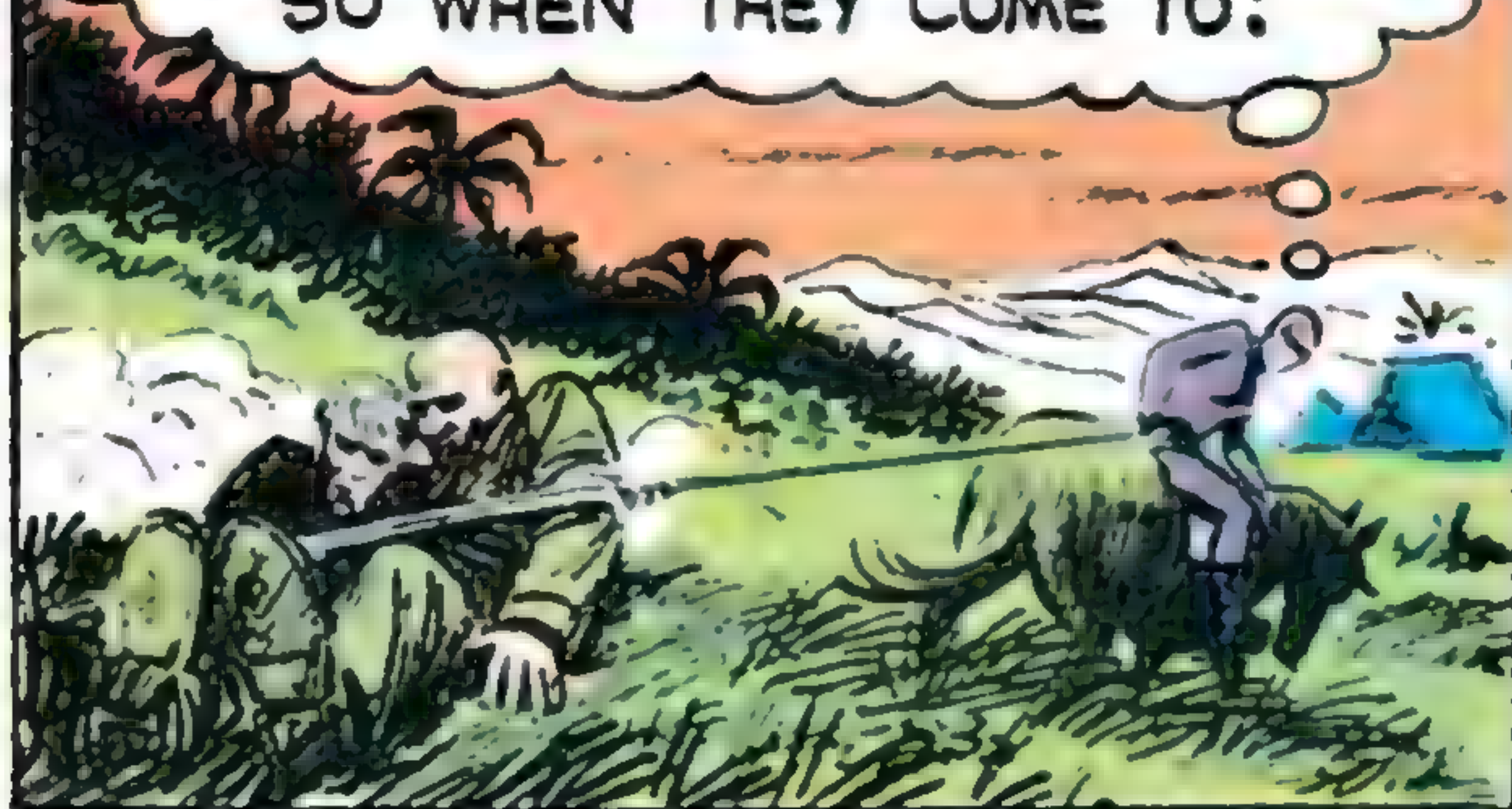


"BUT GRABBING EVEN A 'FAKE PHANTOM' IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE..."



"AFTERWARDS, SHE TOOK THEM TO THE COURT HOUSE OF THE NEAREST VILLAGE..."

MAYBE I'M NOT AS GOOD AS AN *ACTUAL* PHANTOM— BUT THESE TWO CHARACTERS WILL CERTAINLY *THINK* SO WHEN THEY COME TO!



"NEXT MORNING..."

L-LOOK! THE MARK OF THE *PHANTOM*!

CAPTURED FOR ATTEMPT TO ROB MINING CAMP.



JUST DON'T OPEN YOUR FLAPPER ABOUT ANY *GIRL* PHANTOM! WE'LL WAIT TILL LAMONT BAILS US OUT!

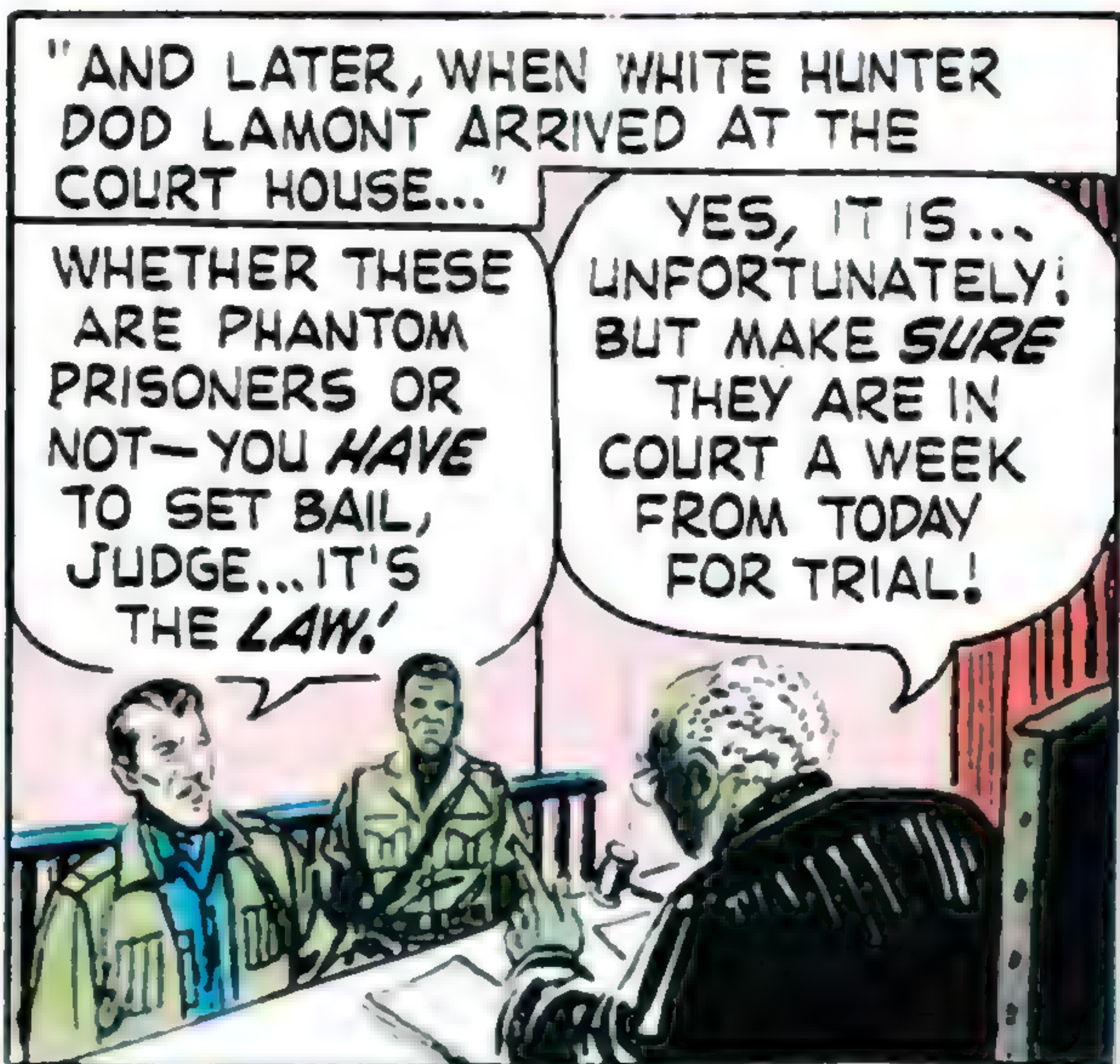
THINK I'M *CRAZY*? WHO'D BELIEVE A GIRL COULD DO *THIS* TO US?



"AND LATER, WHEN WHITE HUNTER DOD LAMONT ARRIVED AT THE COURT HOUSE..."

WHETHER THESE ARE PHANTOM PRISONERS OR NOT—YOU *HAVE* TO GET BAIL, JUDGE...IT'S THE *LAW*!

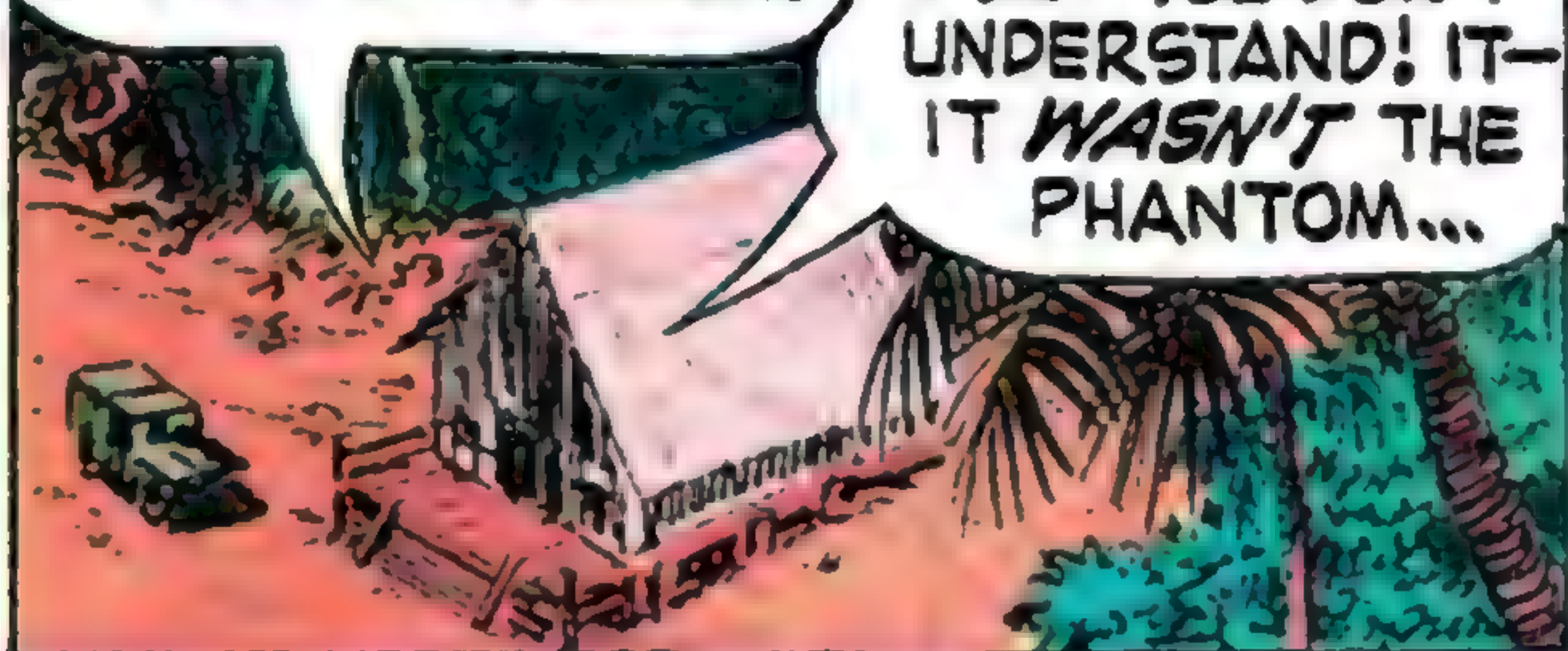
YES, IT IS... UNFORTUNATELY! BUT MAKE *SURE* THEY ARE IN COURT A WEEK FROM TODAY FOR TRIAL!



"AFTERWARD, THE RENEGADE WHITE HUNTER PUT HIS TWO HENCHMEN ON THE CARPET..."

SO YOU TWO CHARACTERS ARE GOING TO HELP ME FLEECE THE COASTAL VILLAGES OF SKINS AND DIAMONDS! I *TOLD* YOU FOOLS TO KEEP A *KEEN EYE* OUT FOR THE PHANTOM!

B-BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT—IT *WASN'T* THE PHANTOM...



JUST WHAT IN THUNDER DO YOU *MEAN*, CHIGGER?

W-WELL, IT WAS SOMEBODY *DRESSED* LIKE THE PHANTOM—BUT IT *WASN'T* HIM! IT WAS... WELL, IT WAS...



...A *GIRL*!

A *WHAT*?!?



TH-THAT'S *RIGHT*, MR. LAMONT... A GIRL... IN A PHANTOM COSTUME!

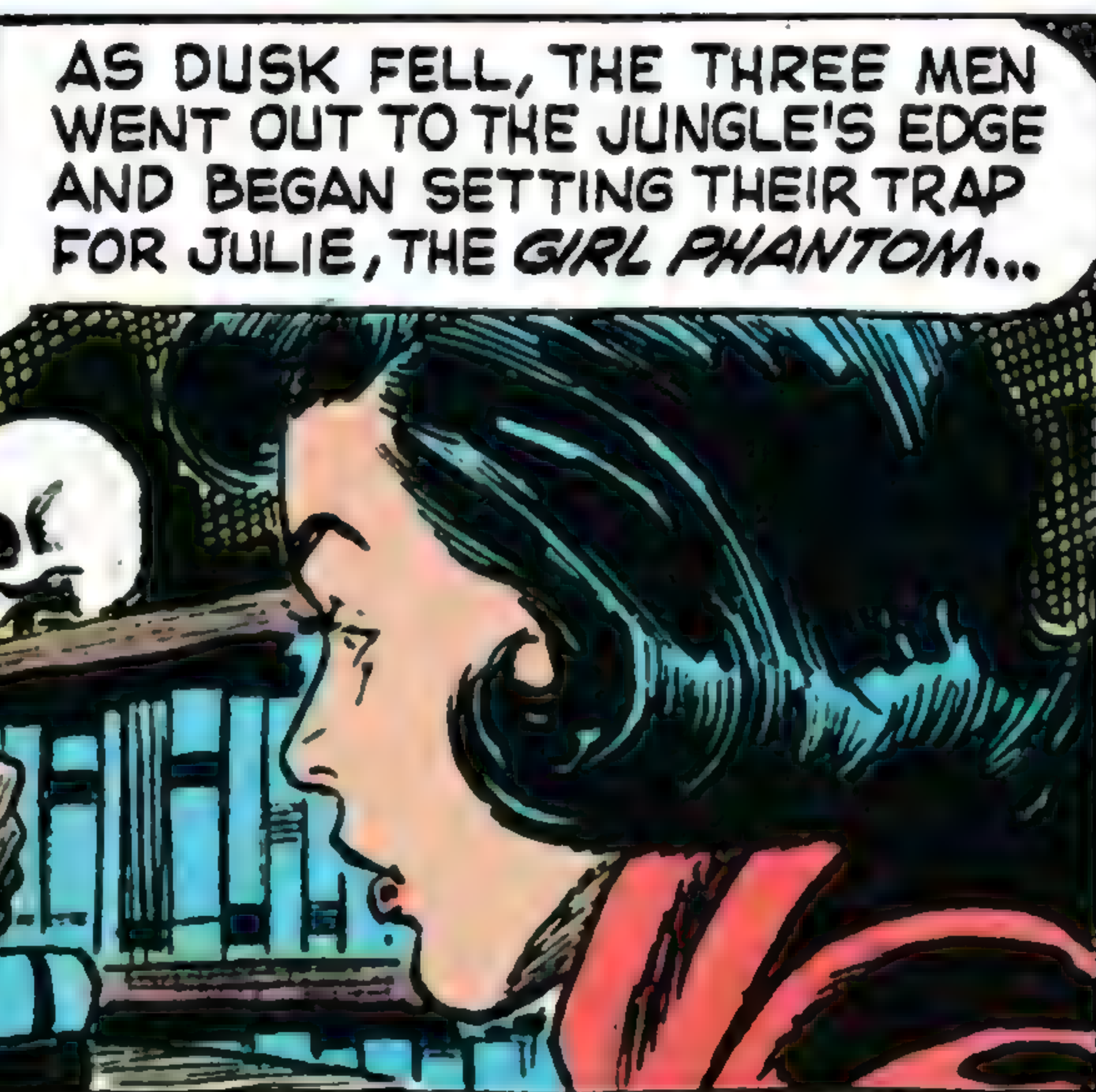
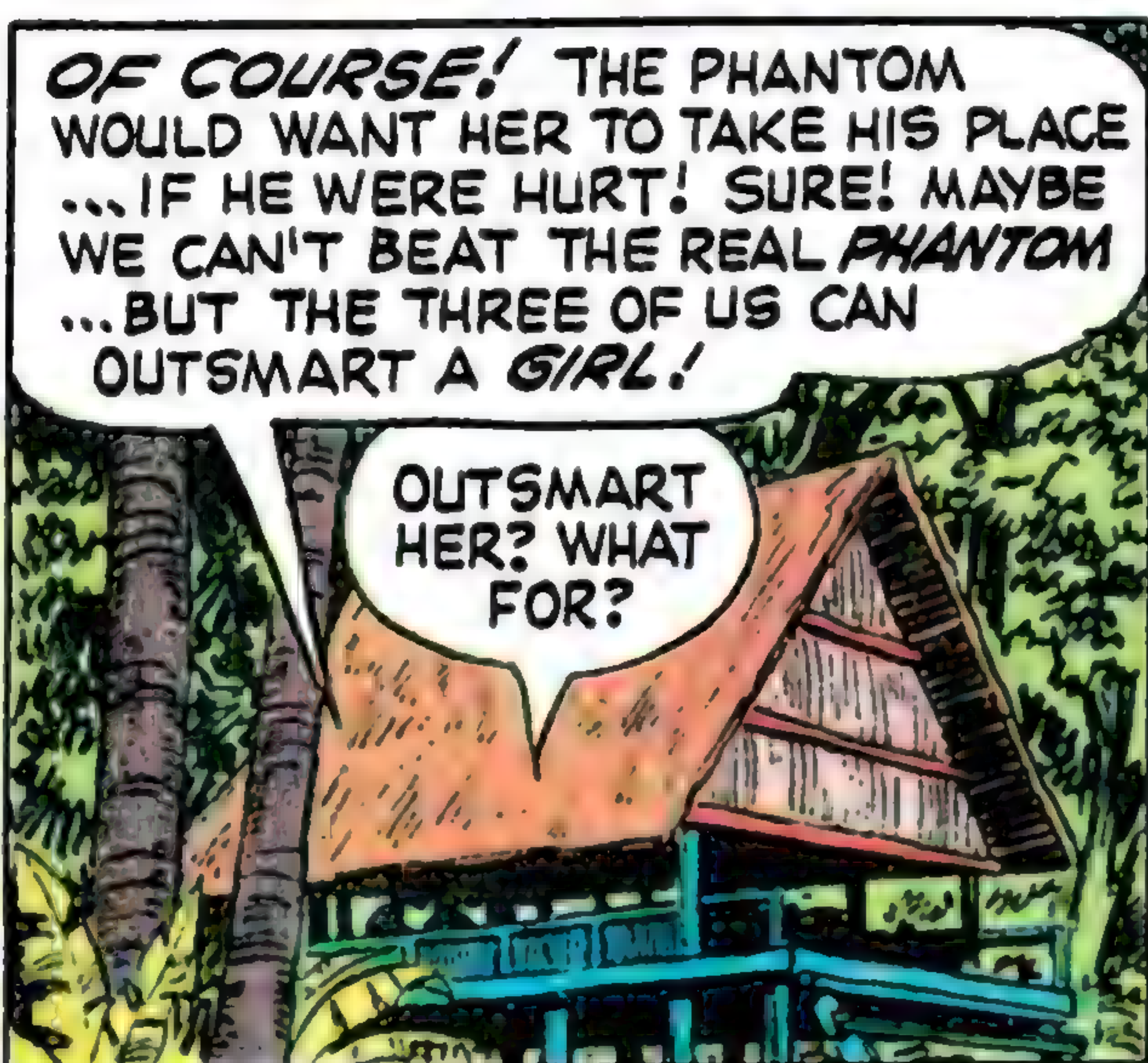
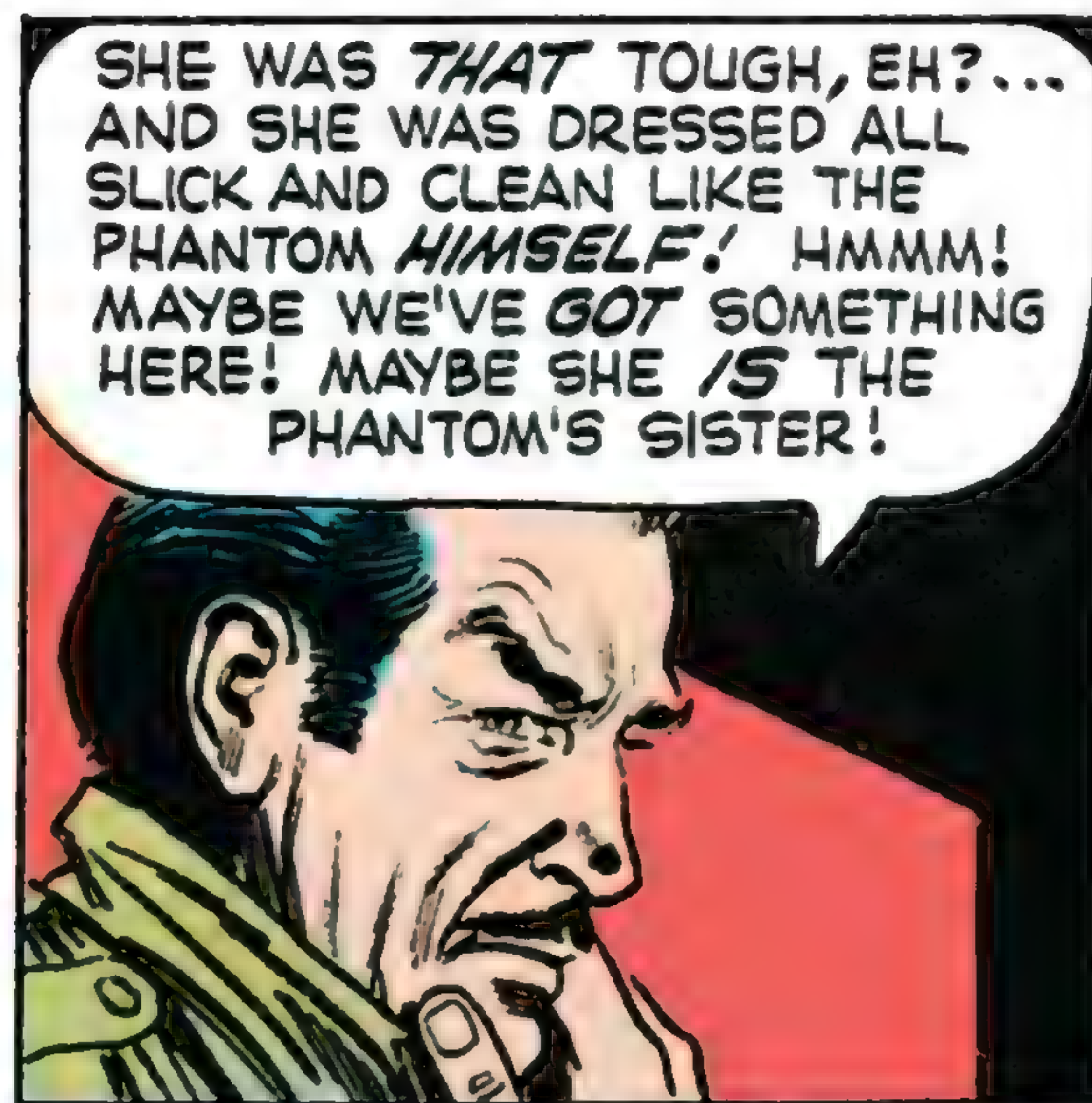
OH, HA-HA! HEE-HEEE! A GIRL—A *GIRL PHANTOM*! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

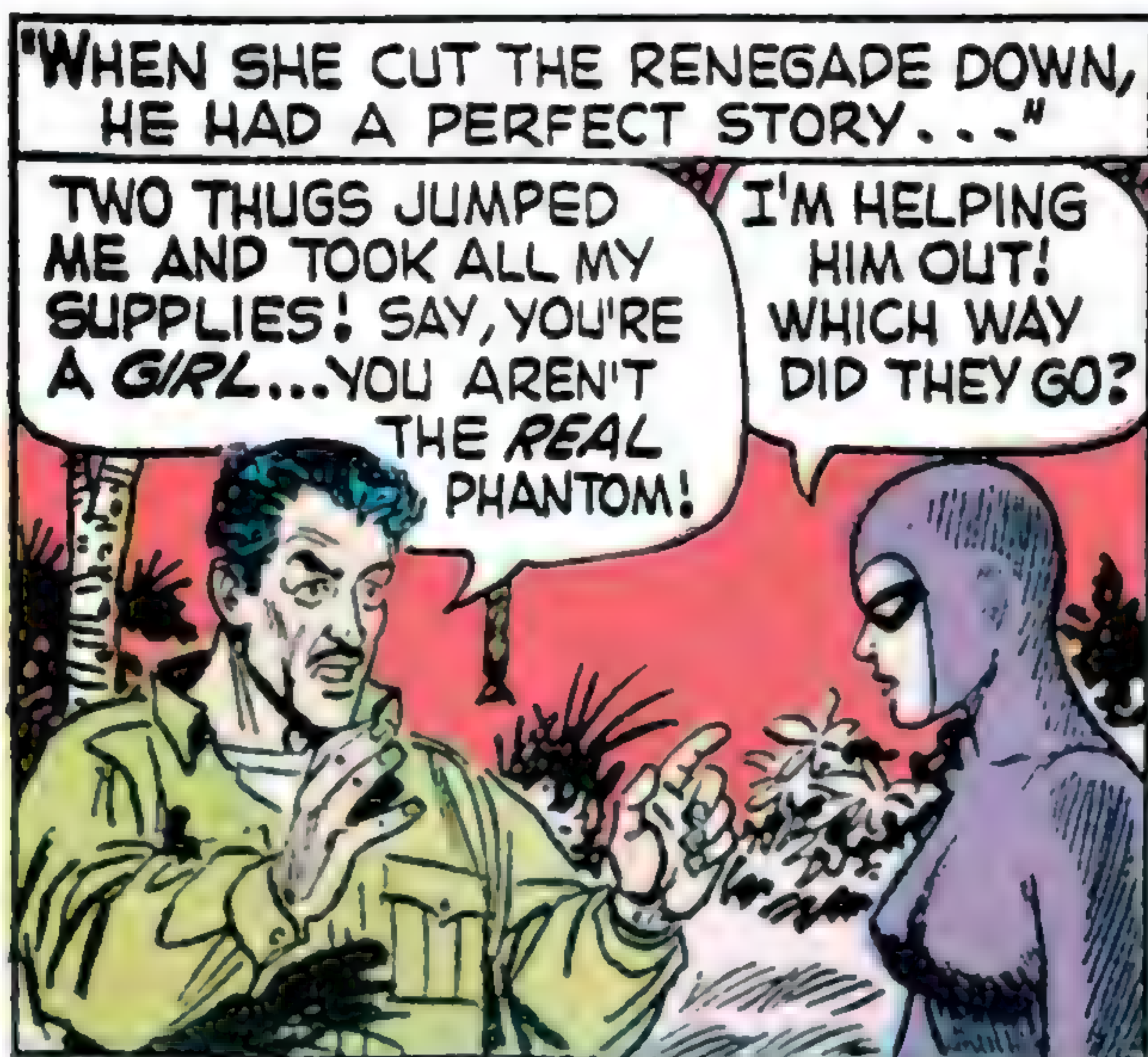


OH, HO-HO! TWO OF THE TOUGHEST CRITTERS IN BENGALI BEING HOG-TIED BY A PAIR OF *HIGH HEELS*! HEE-HEE! I'VE SURE GOT MYSELF A COUPLE OF *RED HOT* PARTNERS IN CRIME!

SH-SHE WAS TOUGH AS NAILS, LAMONT! CUT IT OUT!







"AS JULIE LEFT, LAMONT'S CUNNING PLAN SNAPPED INTO ACTION..."

KEEP DOWN UNTIL SHE'S OUT OF SIGHT, YOU IDIOTS! NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT I HAVE IN MIND! SHE'S FALLEN INTO OUR TRAP!



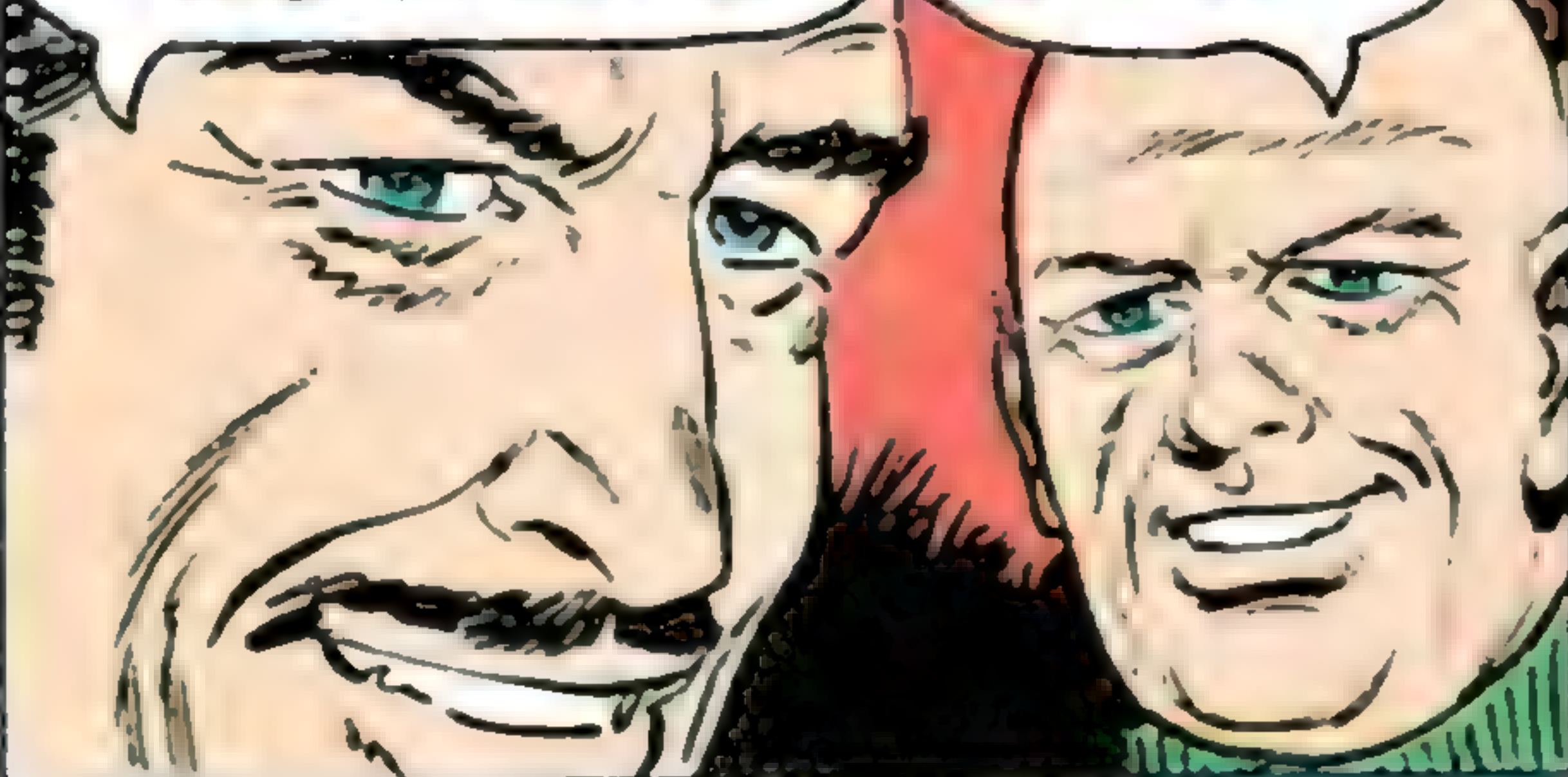
SEE, MY STUPID FRIENDS, LUMINOUS HOOF PRINTS! WHEN IT GETS DARKER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW HER WHEREVER SHE GOES!

WOW! AND SHE CAN'T SEE 'EM HERSELF BECAUSE IT ISN'T DARK ENOUGH!



THAT'S RIGHT! AND SOONER OR LATER, SOME TIME TONIGHT, SHE'LL RETURN TO THE REAL PHANTOM'S HIDEOUT! AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE GLOWING HOOFPRIENTS!

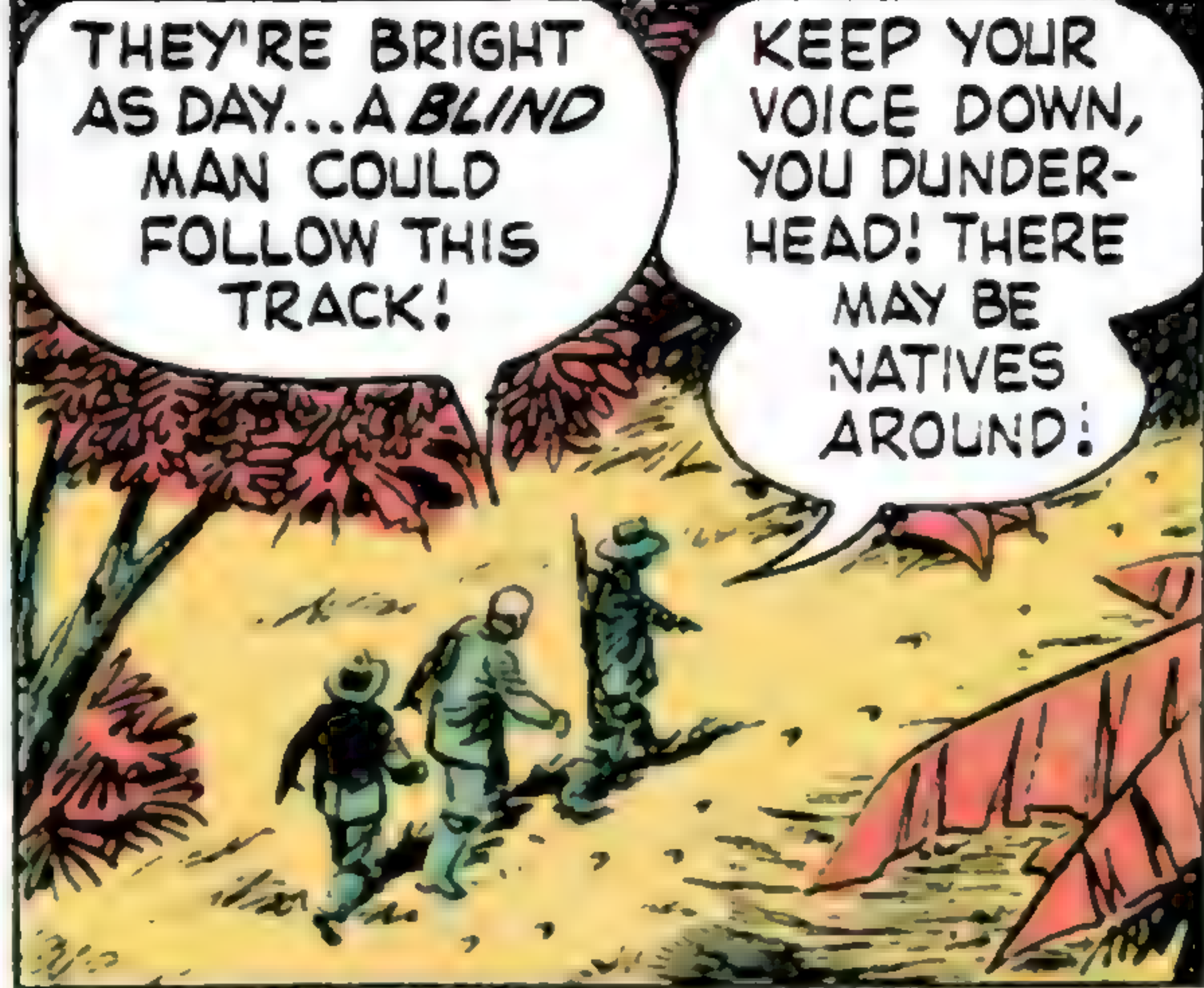
YEAH...TO A FORTUNE IN PHANTOM SECRETS!



"LATER, THE TRIO TOOK OFF IN THE DARKNESS..."

THEY'RE BRIGHT AS DAY...A BLIND MAN COULD FOLLOW THIS TRACK!

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, YOU DUNDER-HEAD! THERE MAY BE NATIVES AROUND!

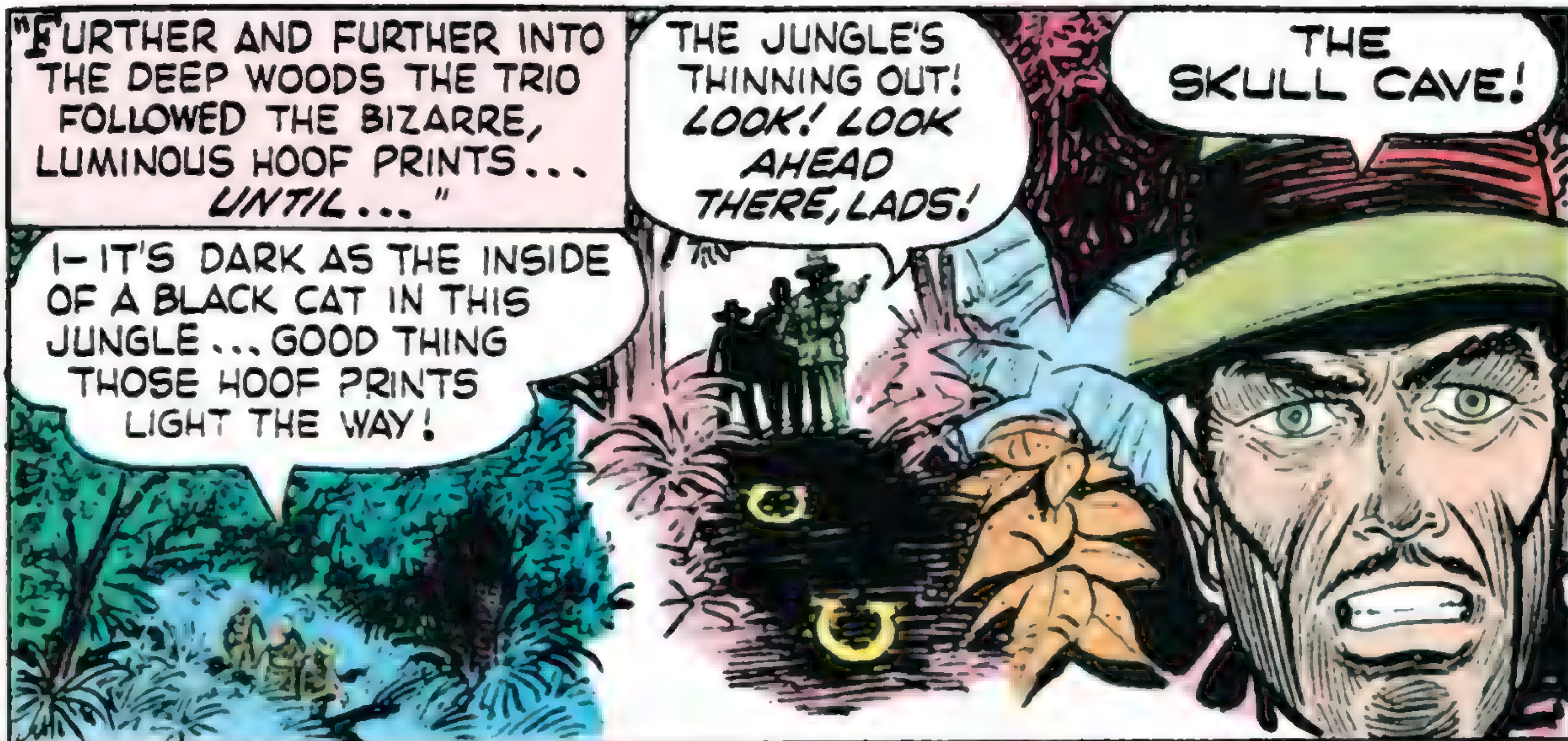


"FOR THREE HOURS THEY FOLLOWED THE PRINTS, UNTIL..."

HEY! SHE WENT THROUGH A STREAM...THAT'LL WASH THE LUMINOUS PRINTS OFF THE HORSE'S HOOFS, WON'T IT, LAMONT?

THERE *SHOULD* BE ENOUGH GLOW LEFT TO FOLLOW! LOOK... OVER THERE ON THE OTHER BANK...WE CAN PICK THEM UP AGAIN!



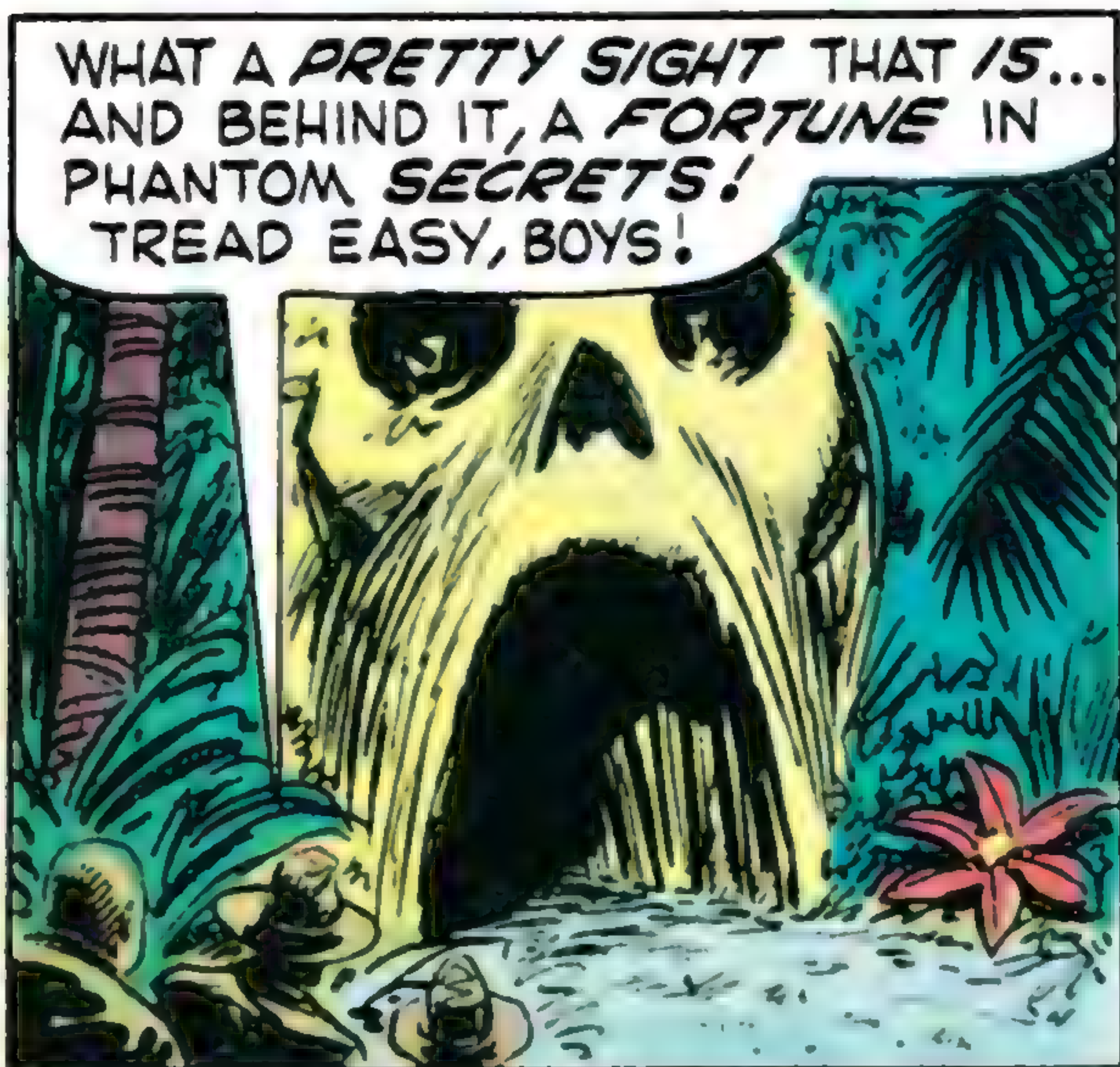


"FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO THE DEEP WOODS THE TRIO FOLLOWED THE BIZARRE, LUMINOUS HOOF PRINTS... UNTIL..."

THE JUNGLE'S THINNING OUT! LOOK! LOOK AHEAD THERE, LADS!

THE SKULL CAVE!

I- IT'S DARK AS THE INSIDE OF A BLACK CAT IN THIS JUNGLE... GOOD THING THOSE HOOF PRINTS LIGHT THE WAY!



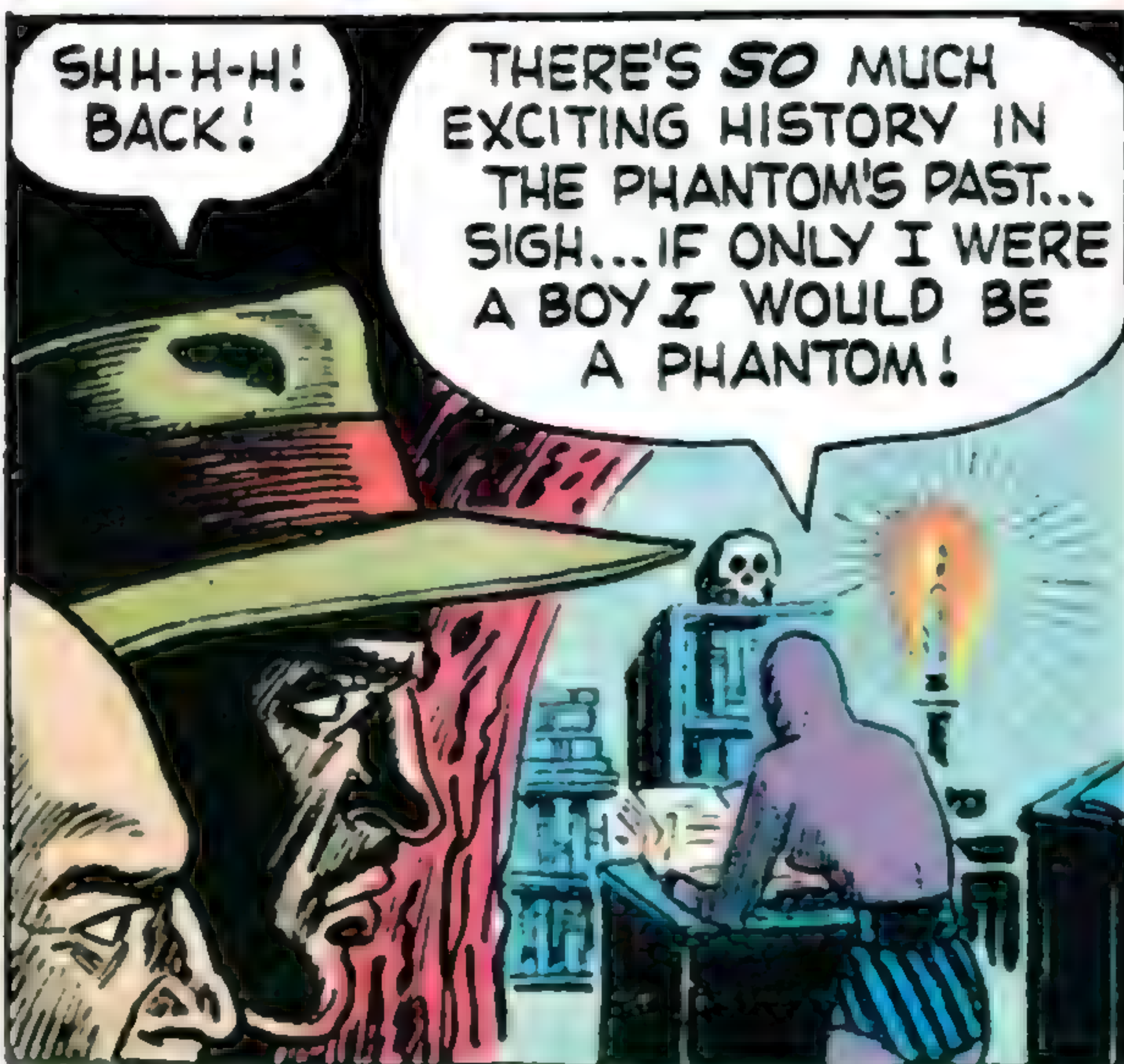
WHAT A *PRETTY SIGHT* THAT IS... AND BEHIND IT, A *FORTUNE* IN PHANTOM *SECRETS*! TREAD EASY, BOYS!



"THEN, IN A SECRET ROOM DEEP WITHIN THE SKULL CAVE..."

LOOK AT THAT! WHY, IT'S LIKE A JEWELRY STORE!

A *BONANZA*!- GOLD AND SILVER RELICS...PROBABLY GIFTS TO COMMEMORATE PHANTOM *FEATS*! MOVE ON, LADS... THE FILES WITH THE PHANTOM'S SECRETS ARE MORE VALUABLE!

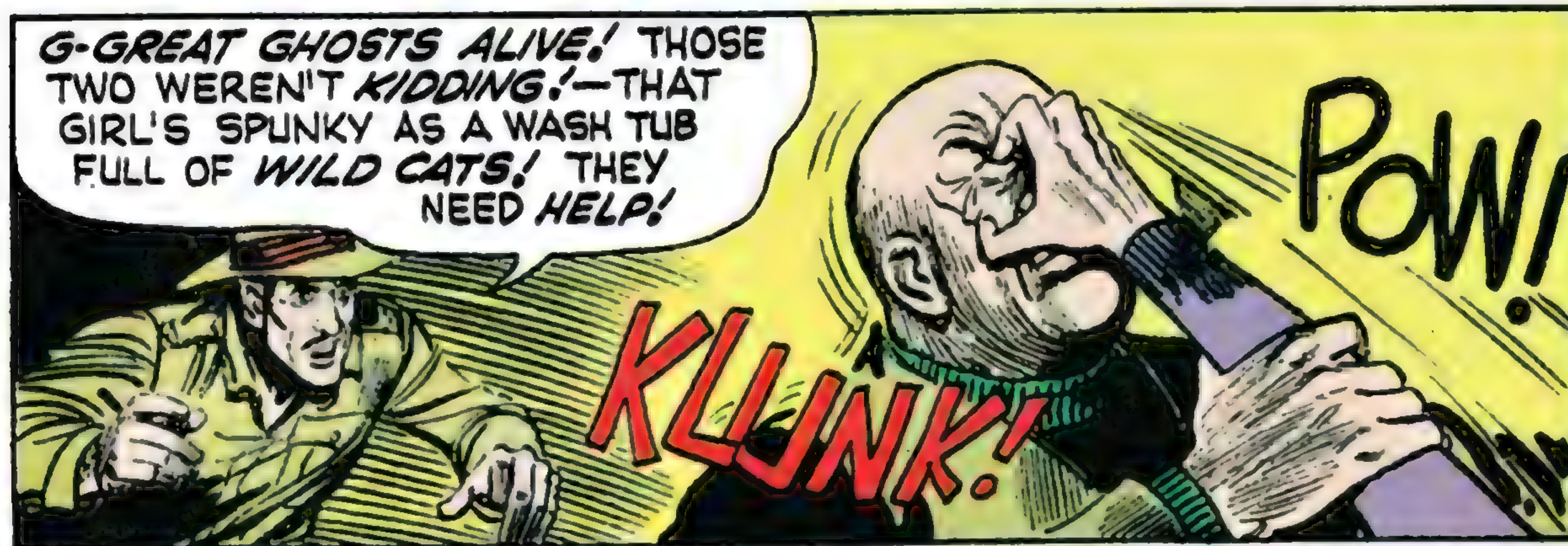


SHH-H-H! BACK!

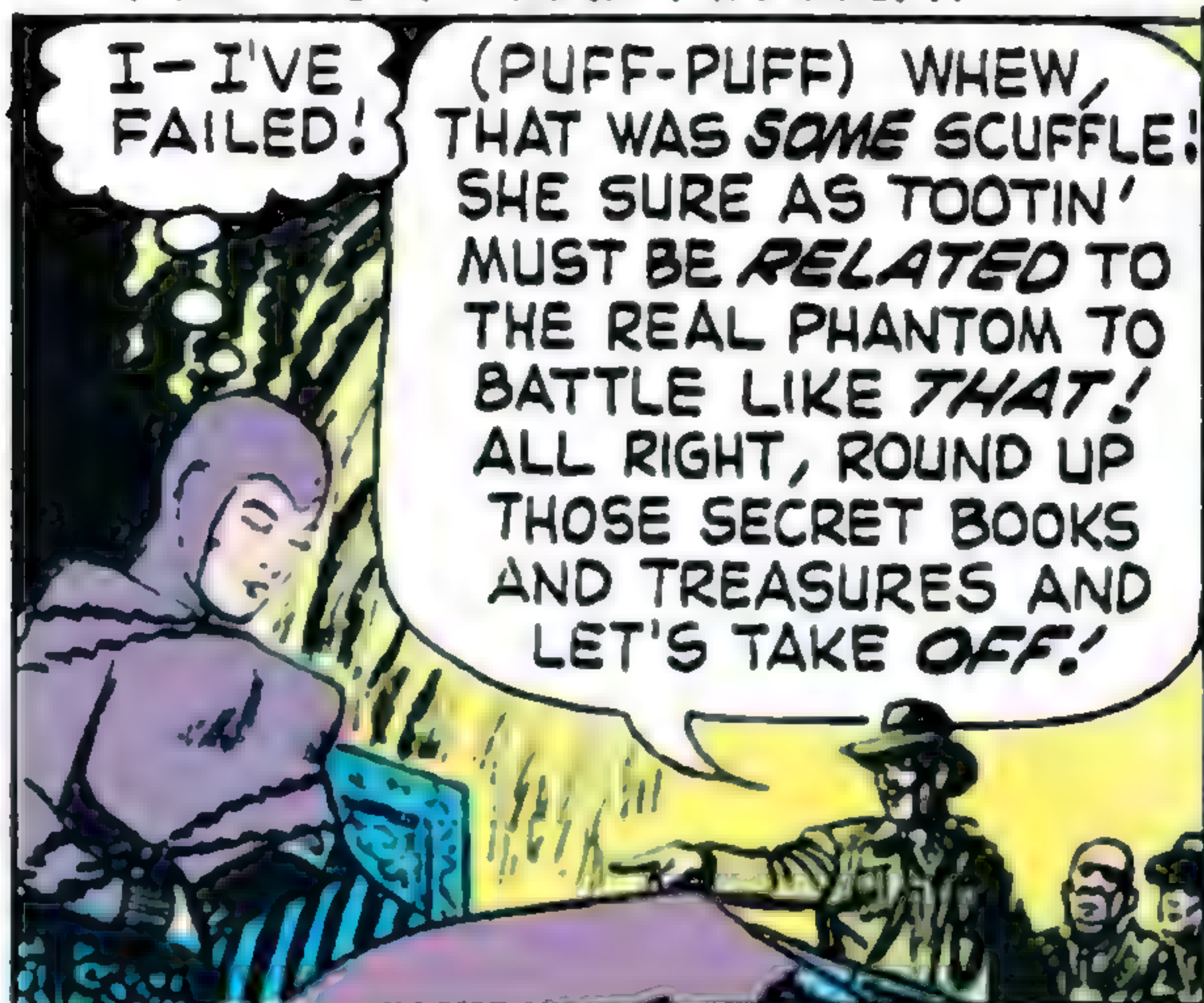
THERE'S *SO* MUCH EXCITING HISTORY IN THE PHANTOM'S PAST... SIGH...IF ONLY I WERE A BOY I WOULD BE A PHANTOM!



IT'S THAT GAL POSING AS THE PHANTOM! WHEN SHE PASSES... GRAB HER!



"BUT JULIE WAS NOT THE *TRUE* PHANTOM...AND FINALLY...



TH- THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED *ME* HERE...THE SKULL CAVE *LOOTED*... AND IT'S *MY* FAULT! I *MUSTN'T* LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT!



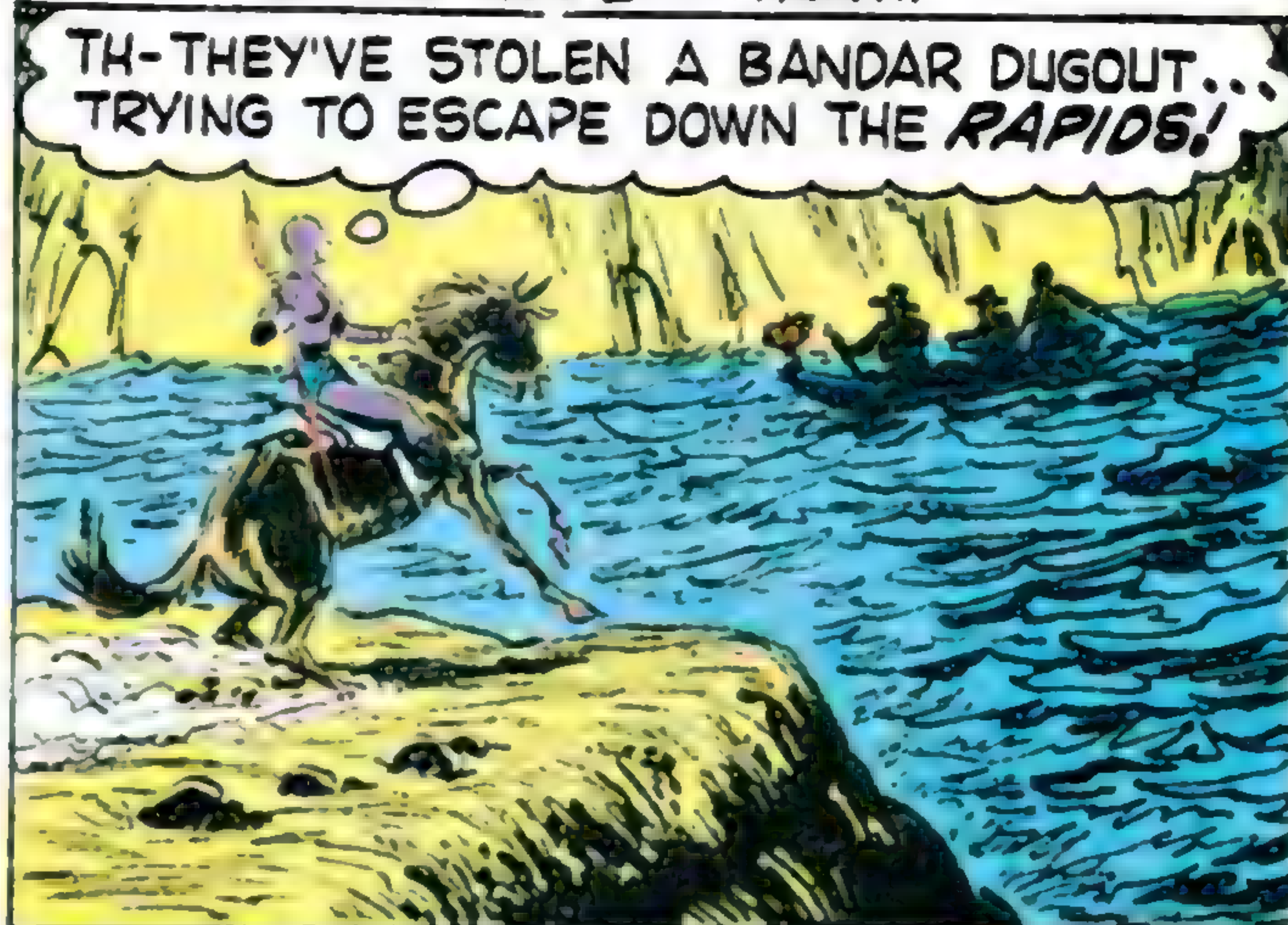
"AS THE GIRL PHANTOM'S WHISTLE ECHOED THROUGH THE SKULL CAVE A FORM CAME BOUNDING... FURY, HER PET AND PROTECTOR..."



AND THOSE GLOWING TRACKS
ARE THEIR ONLY GUIDE *OUT*
OF THE DEEP WOODS!
LET'S FOLLOW *THEM*,
BOY!



"FOR FIVE...TEN...FIFTEEN MINUTES
JULIE RODE...THEN..."

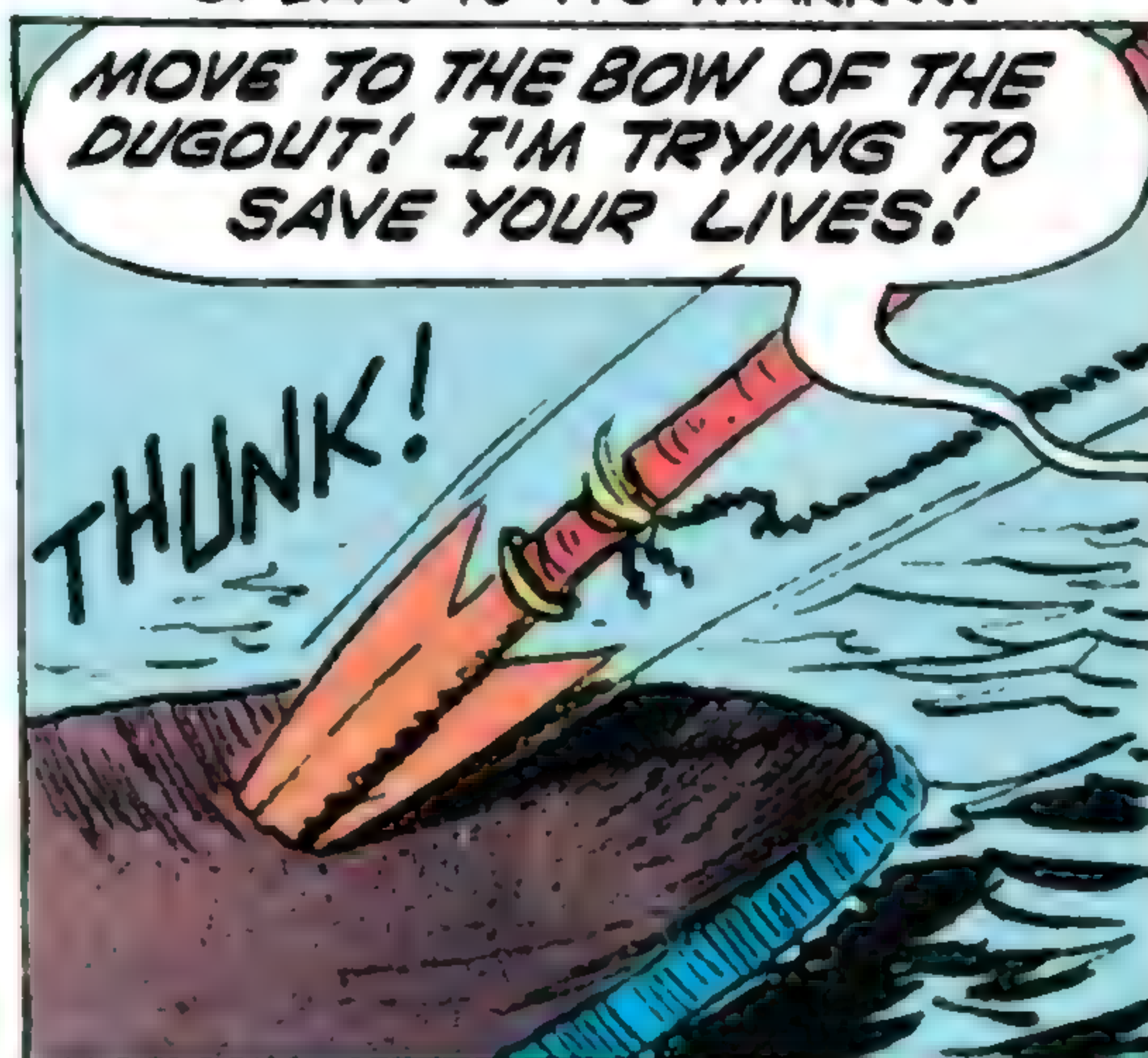


TH-THEY'VE STOLEN A BANDAR DUGOUT...
TRYING TO ESCAPE DOWN THE *RAPIDS!*

"QUICKLY, THE GIRL PHANTOM MOVED
INTO ACTION..." THE THIEVING FOOLS...
EVEN THE NATIVES DON'T DARE RUN
THOSE RAPIDS! GOT TO STOP THEM!



"A PERFECT TOSS SPED THE
SPEAR TO ITS MARK..."



MOVE TO THE BOW OF THE
DUGOUT! I'M TRYING TO
SAVE YOUR LIVES!

"THE SPEAR HEAD BIT
DEEP IN THE WOODEN HULL,
AND THE LINE HELD...*BUT...*"



SHE'S OUT TO
SABOTAGE US,
CHIGGER!

NO! NO! YOU IDIOTS!
STAY PUT UNTIL I CAN
PULL YOU! ASHORE!

"SUDDENLY, A SURGING
CURRENT STRUCK..."

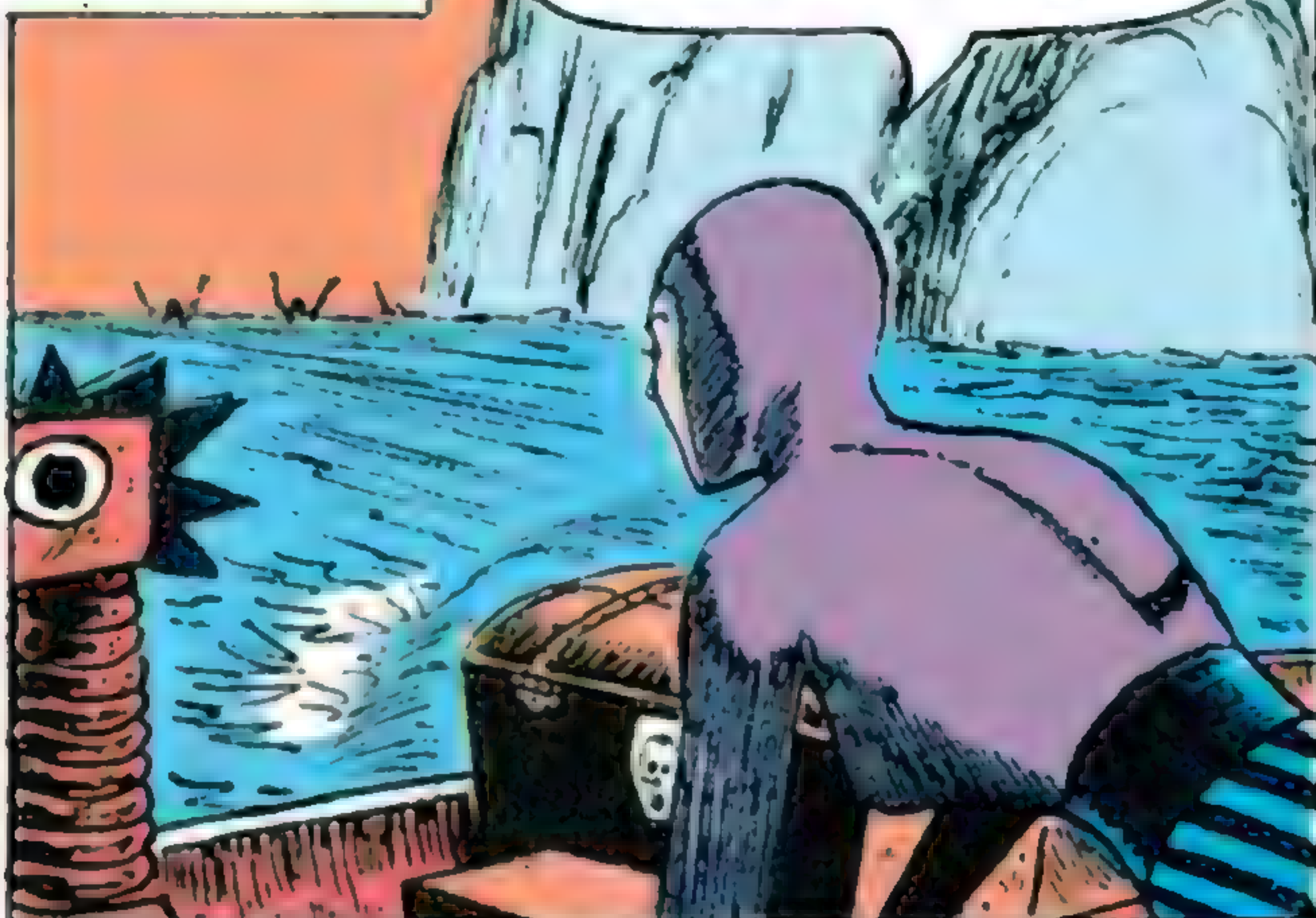
OH-H! TH-THEY WOULDN'T
LISTEN TO ME!
PULL, BOY! PULL!

YAAA-YIIII!



"WHEN THE
DUGOUT WAS
ASHORE..."

NOTHING CAN SAVE
THEM NOW...THE FALLS
ARE DEAD AHEAD!



BUT THEY WERE EVIL MEN...AND
NOW THE SECRETS OF THE SKULL
CAVE ARE SAFE! IT...WAS *FATE!*



"AND LATER..."

PHANTOM MUCH
BETTER, MISSY
JULIE! GETTING
STRENGTH BACK!

GUESS I'VE BURNED
THAT JUNGLE FEVER
OFF, JULIE! BUT I'VE
BEEN WORRIED
ABOUT *YOU!* THINGS
MUST BE MIGHTY
DULL WITH ME ILL!

VERY DULL, KIT...



BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE WELL AGAIN
WE'LL HAVE *LOTS* OF EXCITEMENT
AGAIN SOON, *WON'T* WE?



The PHANTOM The INVISIBLE DEMON

BEING VERY OLD, MOST JUNGLE LEGENDS INVOLVE DRAGONS, WITCHES AND OTHER PRIMITIVE FORCES OF EVIL! BUT SOME ARE SURPRISINGLY MODERN AND INCLUDE MACHINES AND CREATURES BEYOND OUR OWN CIVILIZATION! NEW OR OLD, THOUGH, MOST OF THEM HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON...THE LEGENDARY GHOST WHO WALKS!



ONE SUCH MODERN JUNGLE LEGEND TELLS OF A RACE OF MEN WHO LIVE DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH...THE MYTORS! HOW THE STORY BEGAN IS AS MYSTERIOUS AS THE MYTORS THEMSELVES! ... HOW TRUE THE STORY IS, ONLY THE PHANTOM KNOWS FOR SURE...

AROUND THE JUNGLE CAMPFIRES, ONE OF THE FAVORITE STORIES OF THE MYTORS BEGINS WITH A GREAT LION HUNT...



...WHEN MABAWA, BRAVEST OF ALL HUNTERS IS SNATCHED INTO THE AIR LIKE A RAG DOLL BY AN INVISIBLE HAND...



THAT NIGHT, THE TRIBESMEN OF LLONGO HUDDLE AROUND A FIRE, AS THEIR WITCH DOCTOR K'WAGO, TRIES TO DISPELL THE EVIL SPIRITS...





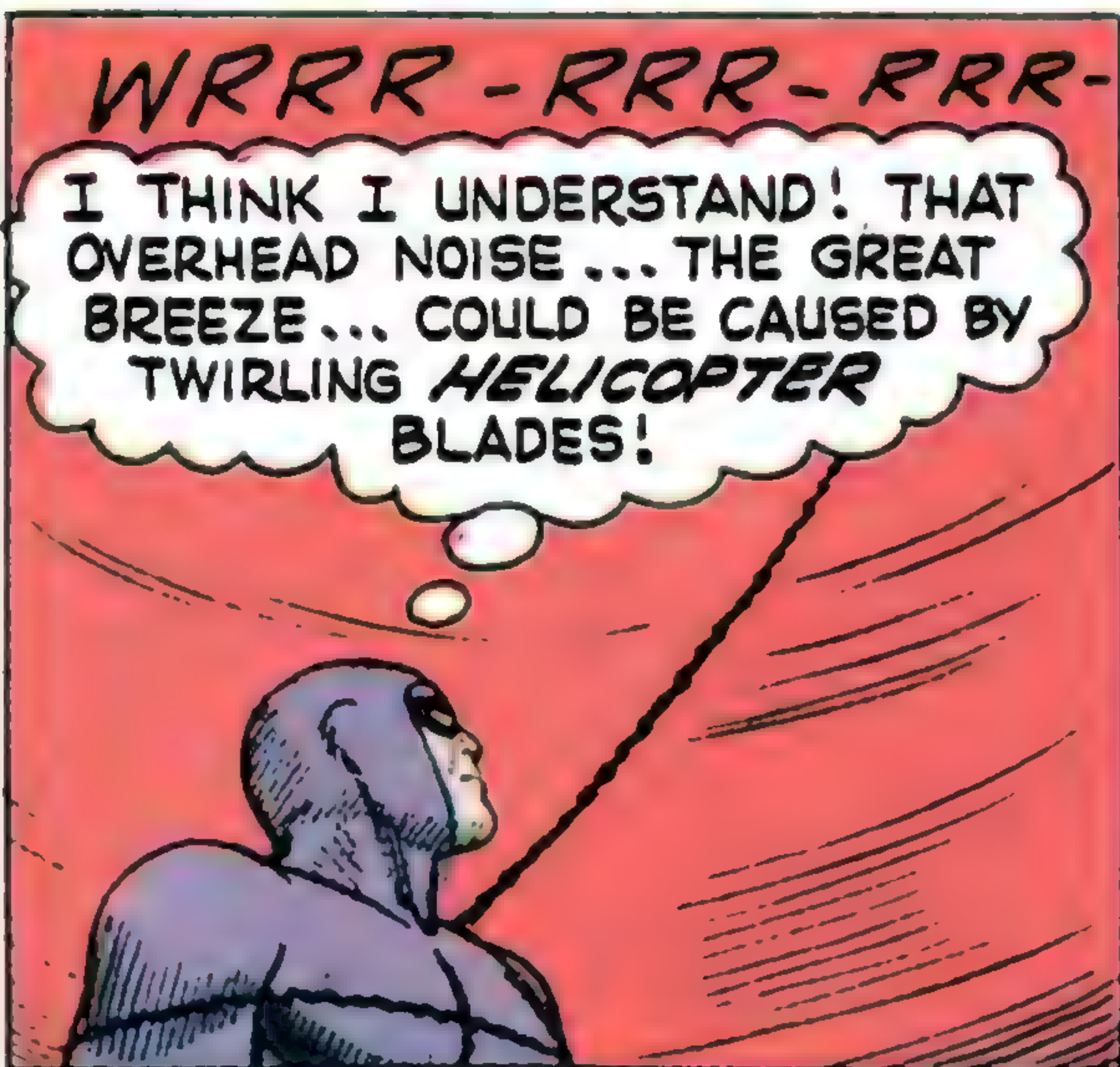
BAFFLED AS THE
NATIVES, HERO AND
DEVIL CHARGE
ALONG BEHIND THEIR
MYSTERIOUSLY
AIRBORNE MASTER...



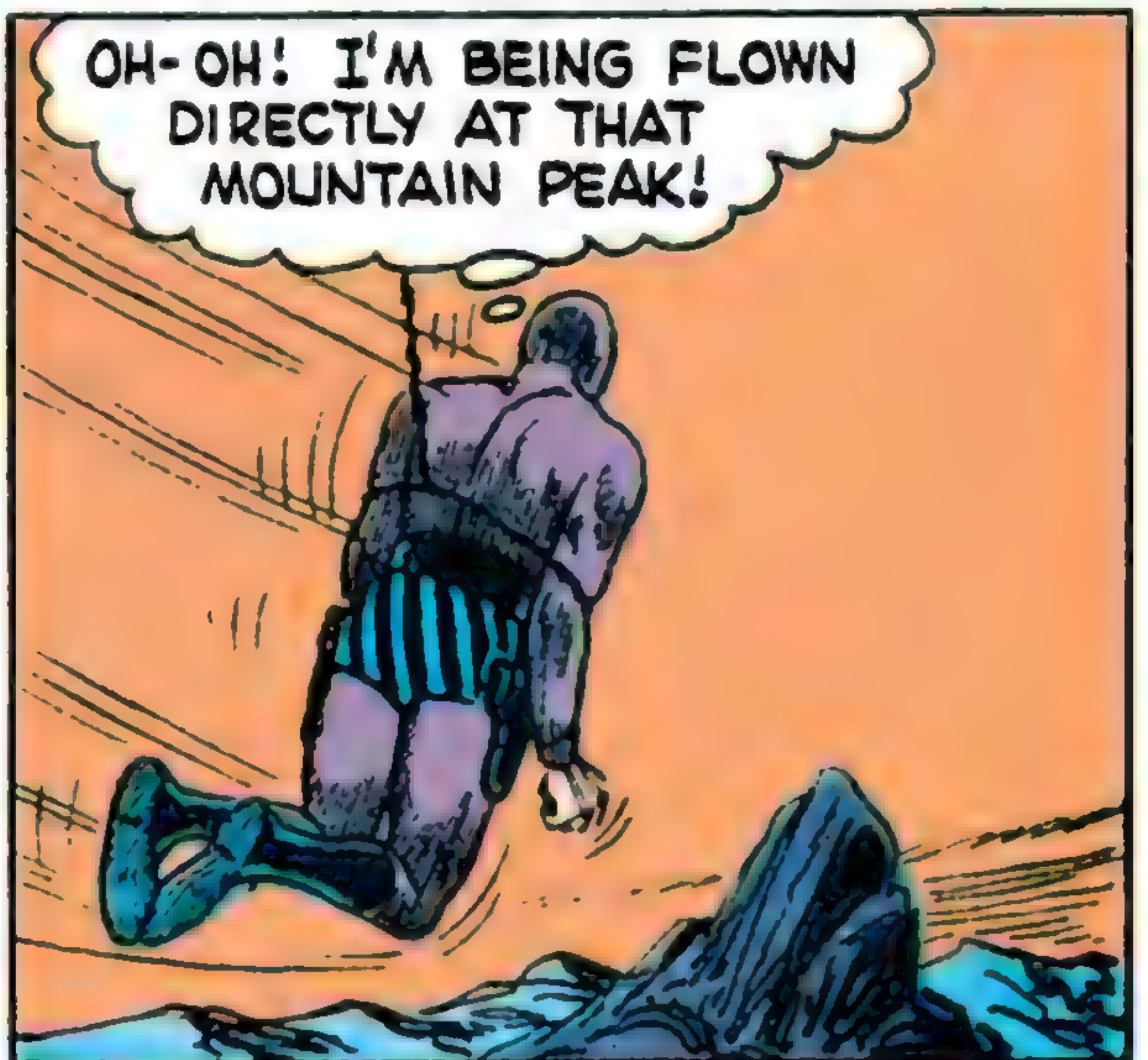
HEE-HEE-HAW HAAAAAAA

WRRR-RRR-RRR-

I THINK I UNDERSTAND! THAT
OVERHEAD NOISE ... THE GREAT
BREEZE ... COULD BE CAUSED BY
TWIRLING *HELICOPTER*
BLADES!



OH-OH! I'M BEING FLOWN
DIRECTLY AT THAT
MOUNTAIN PEAK!



TWISTING DESPERATELY, *THE
PHANTOM* MANAGES TO FREE
HIS ARM, AND THEN...

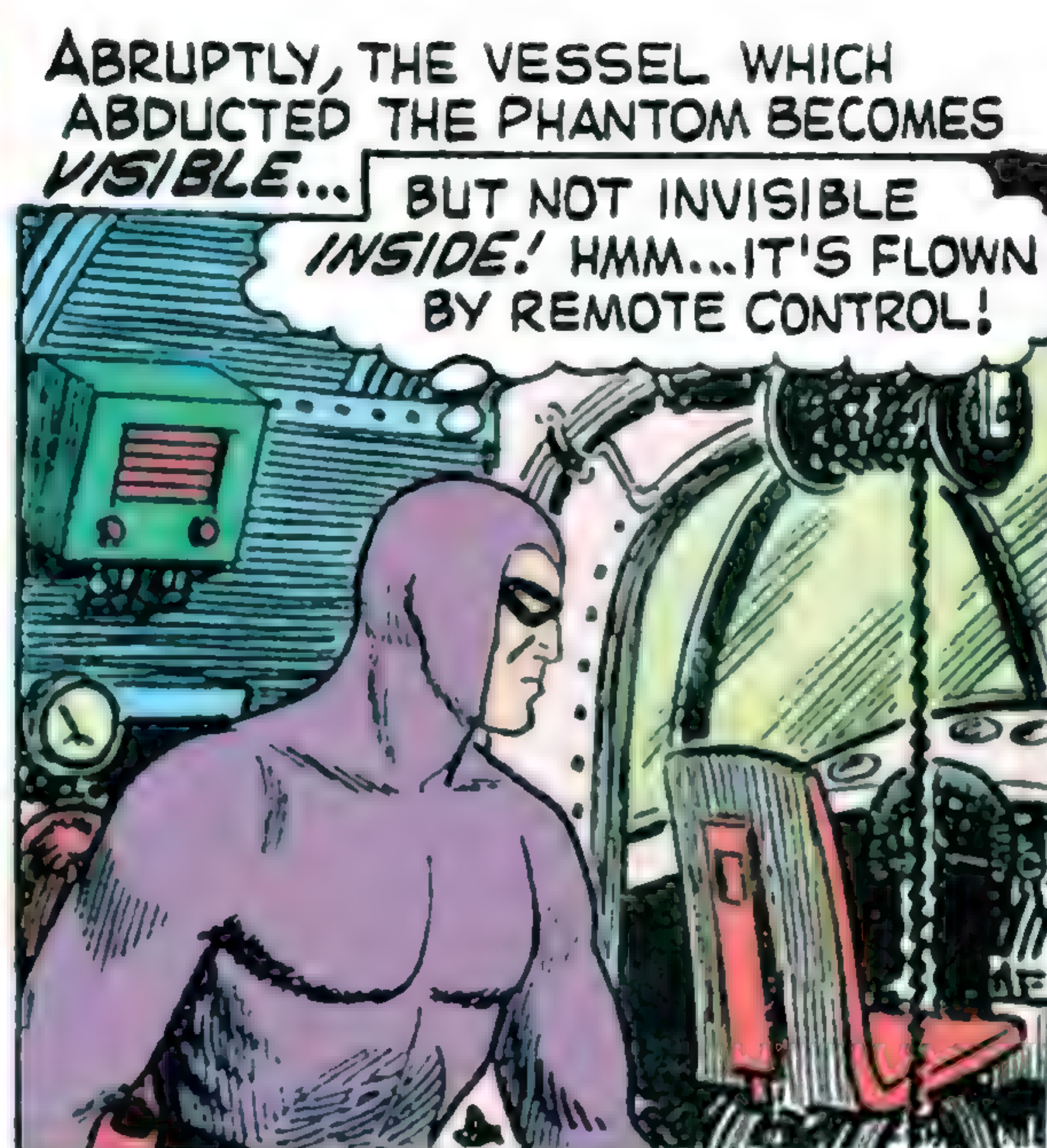
JUST IN
TIME!



HA-HAA-AAA-

NOW TO FIND OUT
WHO'S BEHIND
ALL THIS... AND
WHY!





SUDDENLY, A LOUD-SPEAKER CLICKS ON ...AS THE CABIN BEGINS TO FILL WITH THICK, CHOKING GAS FUMES...



THE PHANTOM REVIVES AT THE BOTTOM OF A CONCRETE PIT. HIS GUNS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY...





"THE GENIUS WHO PERISHED BECAUSE OF YOU WAS DR. *EMIL* L.C. KRAZZ, MY FATHER! WITH HIS SOLAR-RAY MACHINE... HE FORCED THE NATIVES TO WORK FOR HIM, AND WHEN THEY REVOLTED."



BACK INTO THE MINES! I'VE BURNED YOUR VILLAGE! OBEY, OR I'LL DESTROY THE ENTIRE *JUNGLE*! HA-HA!



"THEN YOU FLASHED TO THE ATTACK, LIKE AN AVENGING BOLT..."



"YES, I KNEW HE DIED WHEN HE TRIED TO PUSH YOU FROM A CLIFF INTO THE FLAMING JUNGLE... IF *YOU* HADN'T OPPOSED HIM, MY FATHER WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY!"



NOW DIE...

EEE-YA-AAAGHH!



THAT TALE HAS BEEN A BENGALI LEGEND EVER SINCE! THEY SAY YOU ARE IMMORTAL! BUT I SHALL PROVE OTHERWISE... *NOW!*

HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT WAS MY FATHER WHO ESCAPED BEING MURDERED BY *HIS* FATHER!



SO IT WAS YOU WHO ATTACKED THE NATIVES, AND CAPTURED ME WITH THE INVISIBLE HELICOPTER! HOW DID YOU MASTER INVISIBILITY?

I WILL REVEAL ALL TO YOU WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE...!



"SAD TO RELATE, THE SEEDS OF GENIUS THAT MADE MY FATHER A GREAT SCIENTIST WERE LACKING IN ME! BUT HARD WORK MADE UP FOR IT! THEN ONE DAY..."



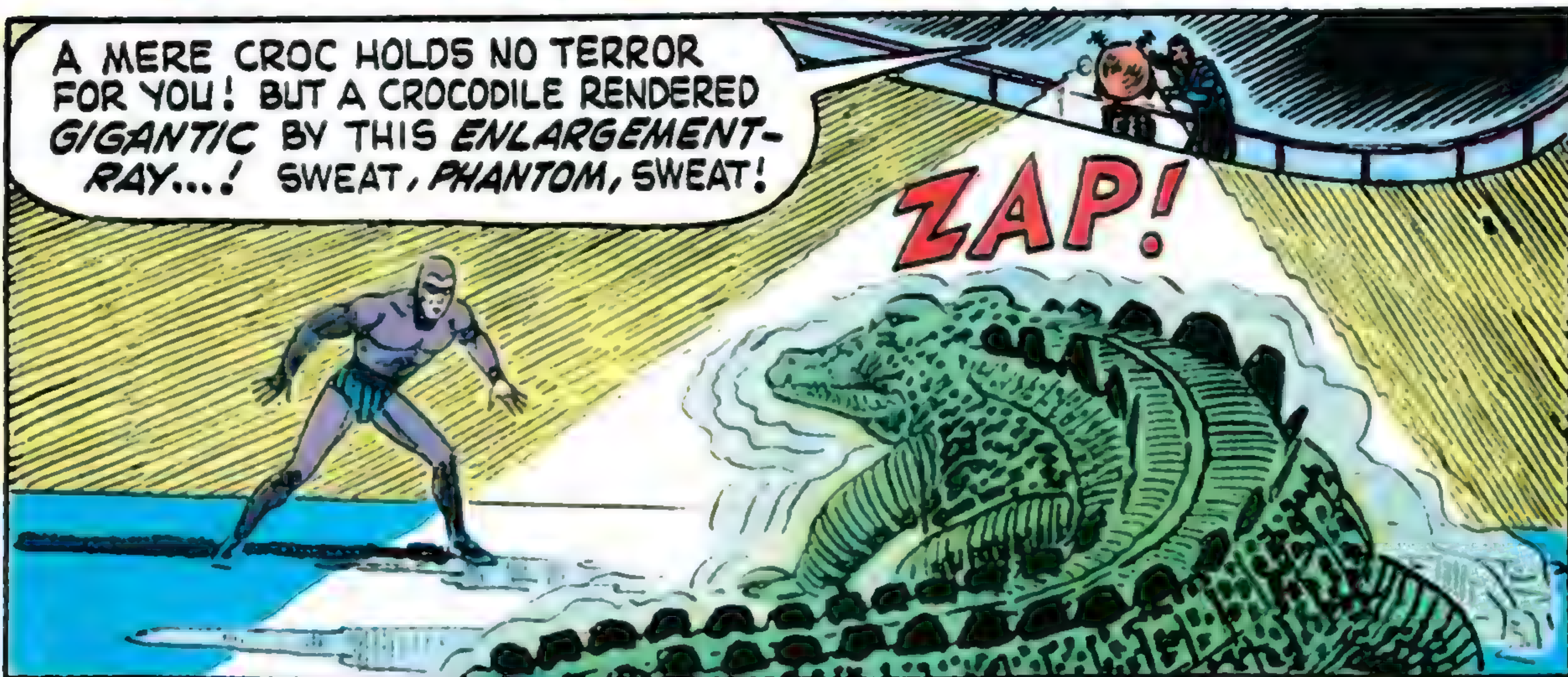
THE *MYTORS* KNEW OF MY GOAL TO DESTROY YOU! WE STRUCK A BARGAIN! I'D SEND THEM HUMAN GUINEA PIGS THROUGH THEIR TELEPORT-CABINET! BY STUDYING HUMANS, THEY WOULD LEARN HOW TO ADAPT THEIR OWN BODIES TO SURVIVE IN OUR UPPER-WORLD ATMOSPHERE!



WHEN THEY CONQUER EARTH, I WILL BE THEIR OVERLORD! IT WAS THEY WHO TAUGHT ME INVISIBILITY AND OTHER INCREDIBLE MARVELS! NOW TO *AVENGE* MY FATHER'S DEATH!



A MERE CROC HOLDS NO TERROR FOR YOU! BUT A CROCODILE RENDERED *GIGANTIC* BY THIS *ENLARGEMENT-RAY*...! SWEAT, PHANTOM, SWEAT!



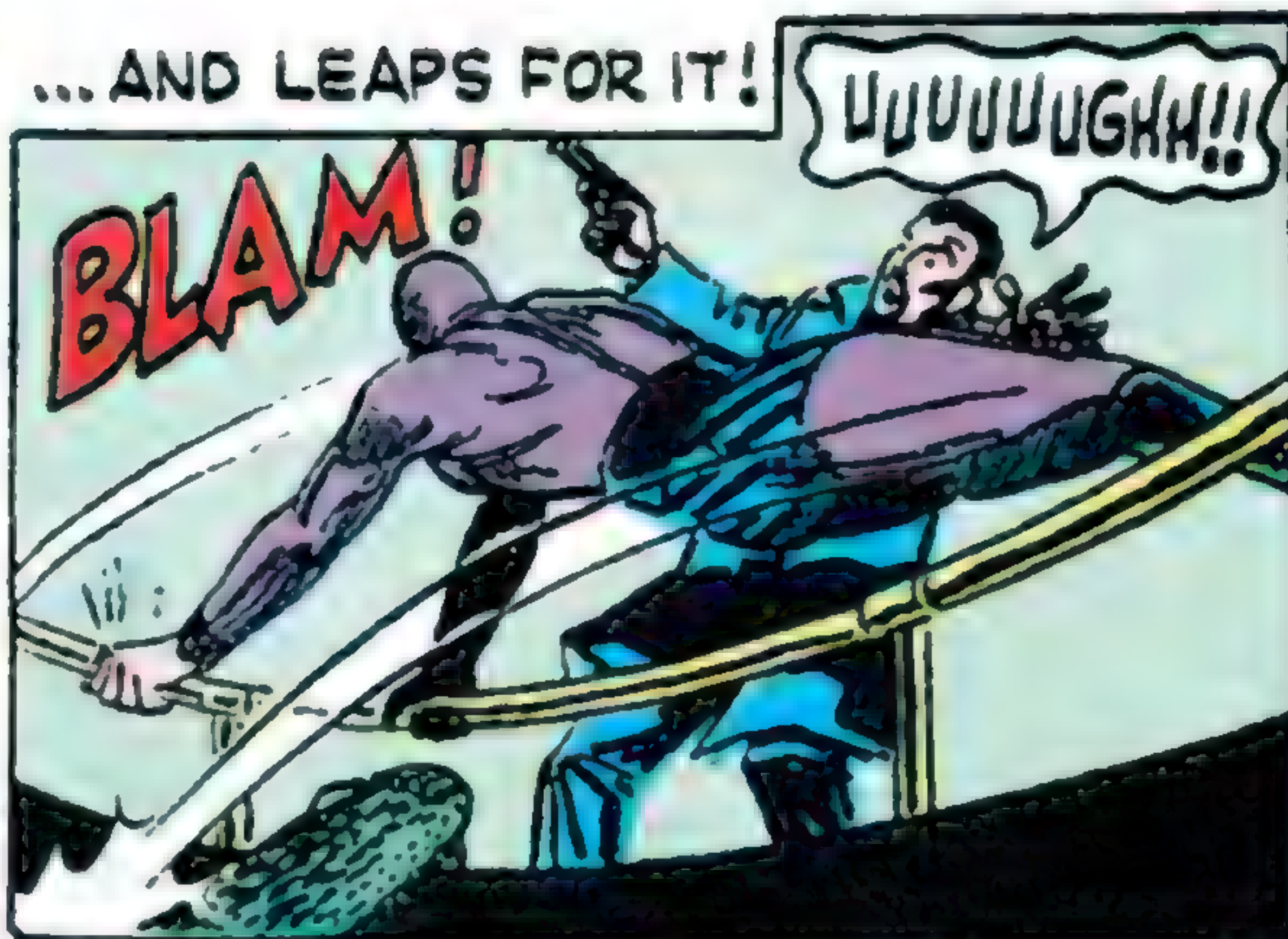
THEN MONSTROUS JAWS SNAP SHUT, BARELY MISSING PHANTOM. THE PHANTOM AGILELY DARTS ASIDE TO SAFETY...



THEN THE PHANTOM SEES HIS
CHANCE TO ESCAPE...



... AND LEAPS FOR IT!

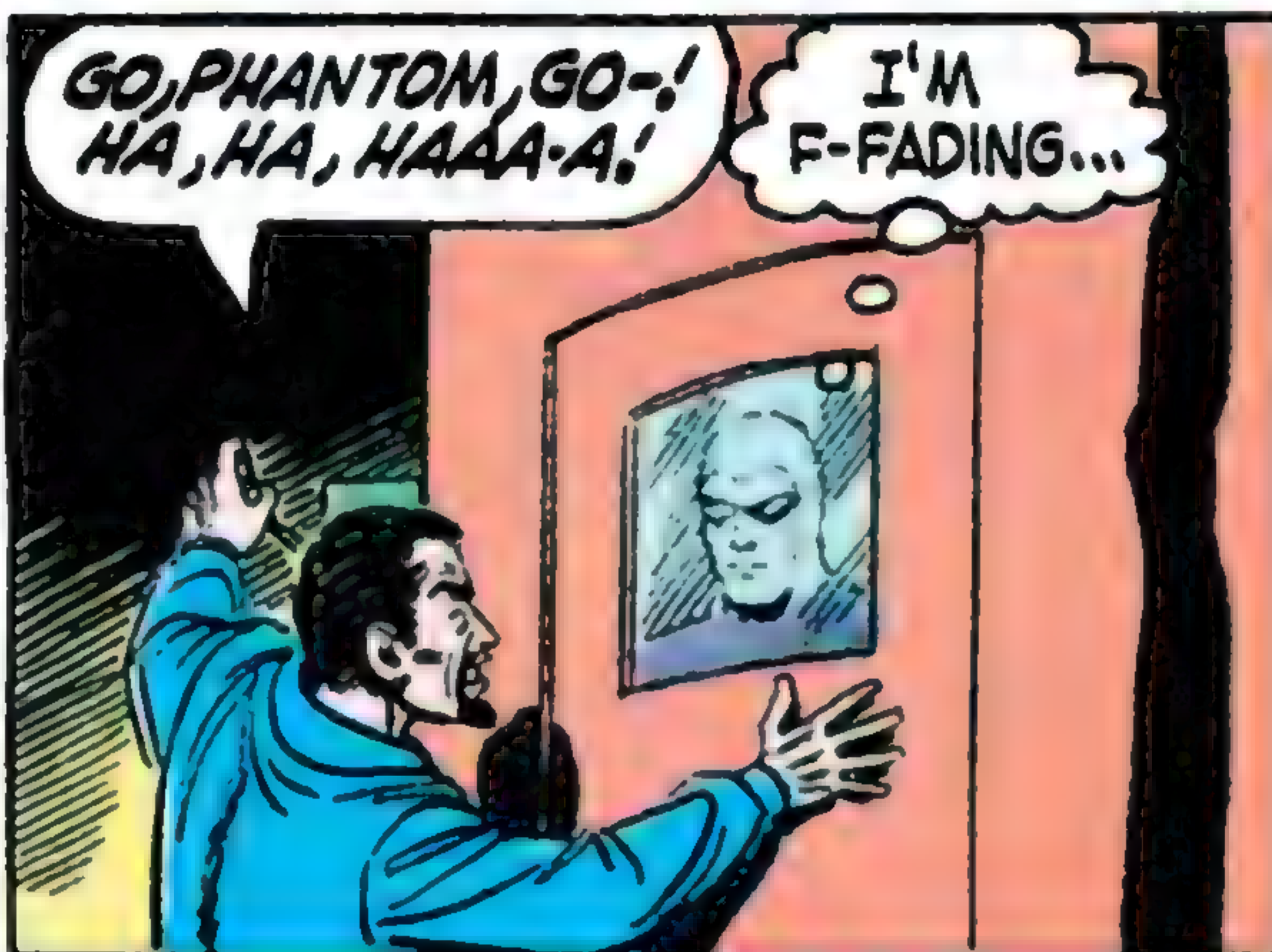


IN THE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWS, THE
PHANTOM DROPS HIS GUARD FOR AN
INSTANT... **YA-HA! INTO THE TELEPORT-
CABINET... GHOST WHO WALKS!**



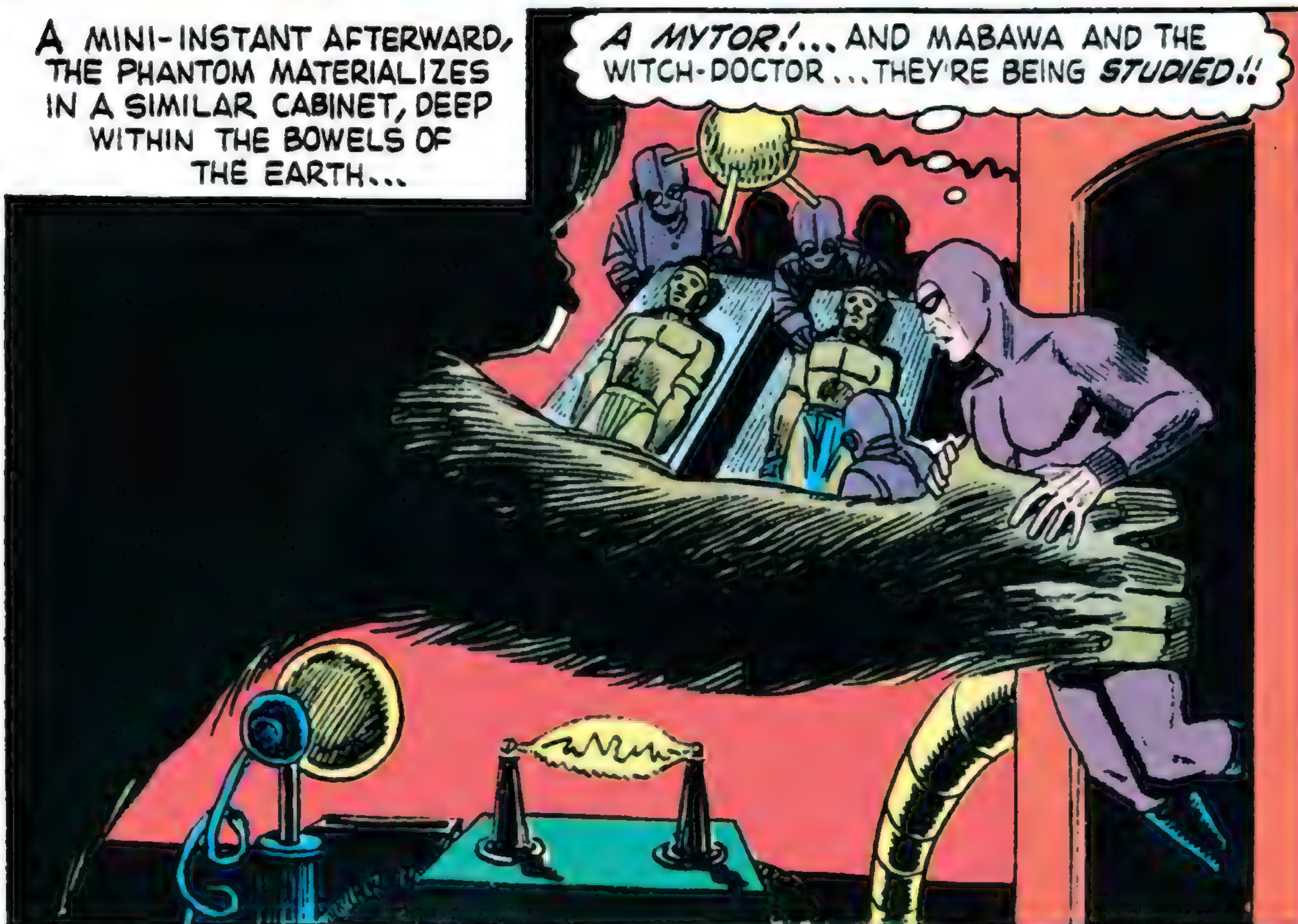
GO, PHANTOM, GO-!
HA, HA, HAAA-A!

I'M
F-FADING...



A MINI-INSTANT AFTERWARD,
THE PHANTOM MATERIALIZES
IN A SIMILAR CABINET, DEEP
WITHIN THE BOWELS OF
THE EARTH...

A MYTOR!... AND MABAWA AND THE
WITCH-DOCTOR... THEY'RE BEING **STUDIED!!**



WITH DAZZLING SWIFTNESS, AND INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, *THE PHANTOM* TWISTS FREE OF THE CLUTCHING MASSIVE HAND...



LEAPING WITH A METEORIC PACE, HE TURNS THEIR OWN WEAPON ON THE *MYTORS*...



SWIFTLY, THEY RETURN TO THE SURFACE...



BUT FAITHFUL DEVIL HAS TRAILED HIS MASTER TO THE DEN OF THE DIABOLICAL DR. KRAZZ...



KRAZZ DARTS TO A STRANGE MACHINE, AND...

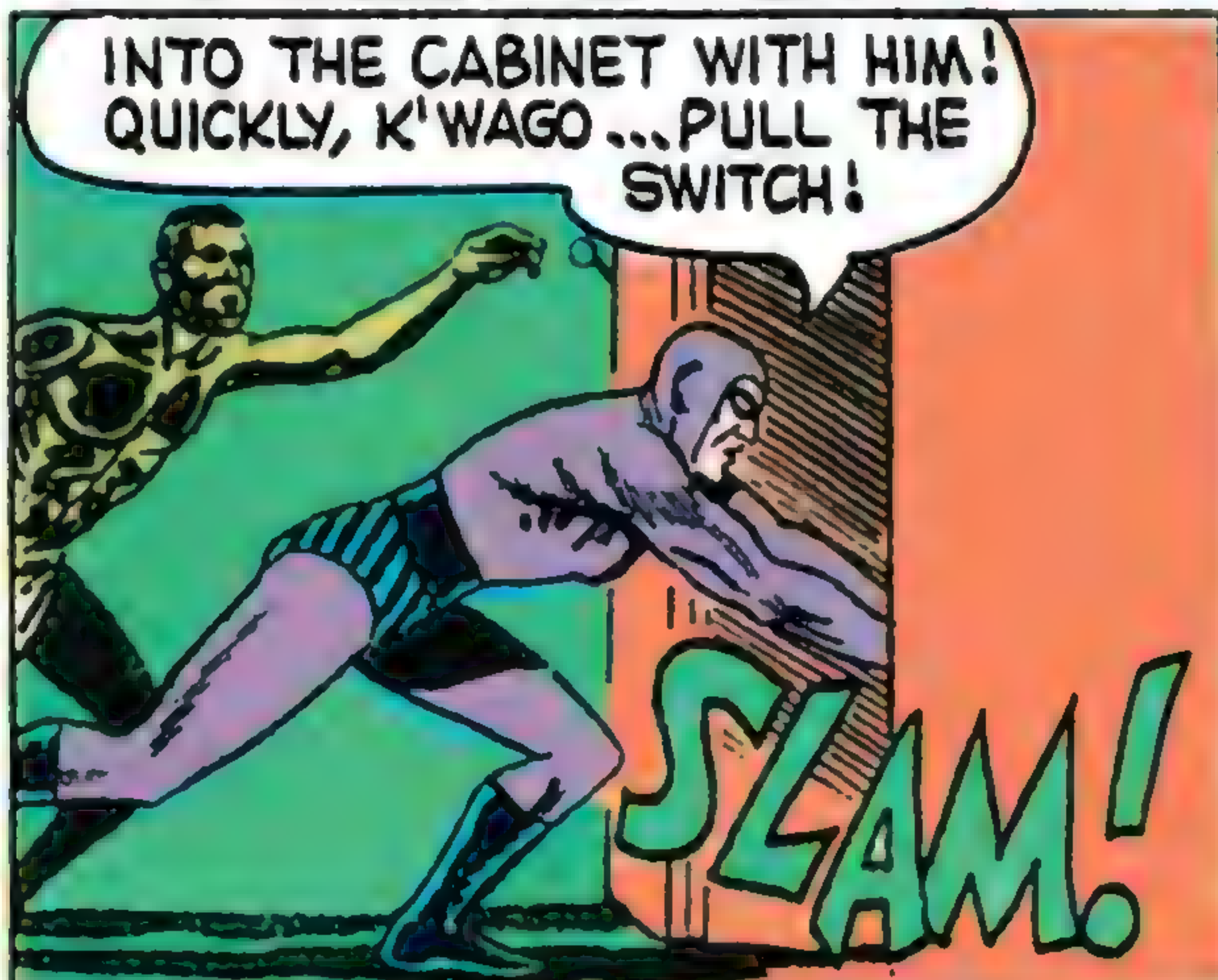


ONCE I AM INVISIBLE, I SHALL DESTROY YOU ONE BY ONE! NO ONE IS A MATCH FOR AN... HA HA... *INVISIBLE KILLER!*

NO ONE, KRAZZ? YOU FORGOT THAT DEVIL HAS A NOSE FOR SCOUNDRELS, VISIBLE OR OTHERWISE!



UPWARD, THE PHANTOM HOISTS THE UNSEEN FOE! NEXT...



INTO THE CABINET WITH HIM! QUICKLY, K'WAGO... PULL THE SWITCH!

THE *MYTORS* WILL PUNISH ME FOR MY FAILURE! BUT THE VOLCANO IS ALIVE WITH SECRETED T-CABINETS!



THOSE CRATES OF EXPLOSIVES...

EXPLOSIVES

SETTING A TIME-FUSE, THE PHANTOM FLEES WITH HIS FRIENDS! SHORTLY...



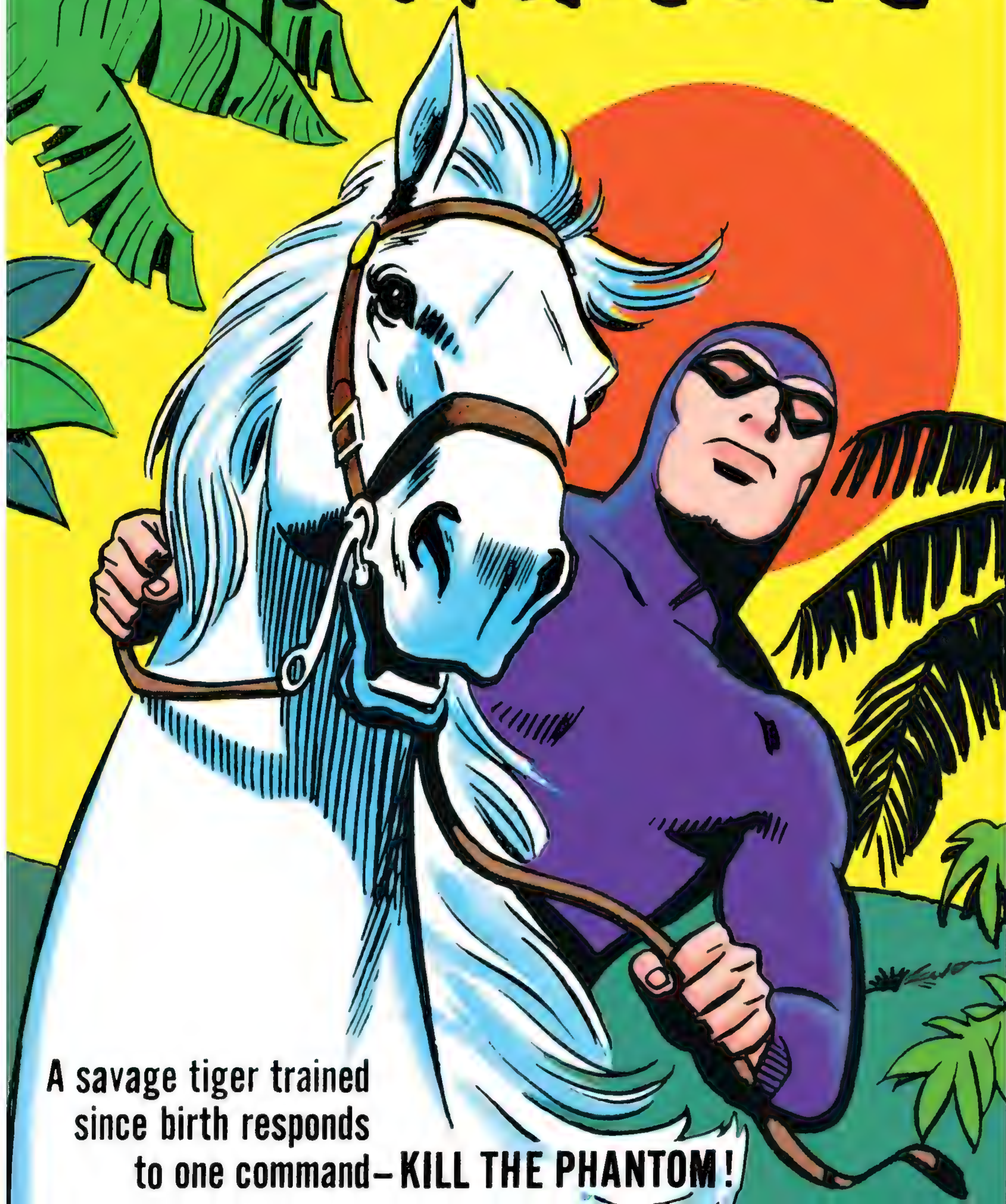
THE END OF THE *MYTOR* THREAT!

NOT EVEN AN ARMY OF FIENDS CAN DEFEAT THE GHOST WHO WALKS!



Above: Mexican comic book cover using the artwork intended for *The Phantom* #29.

THE PHANTOM



A savage tiger trained since birth responds to one command—**KILL THE PHANTOM!**

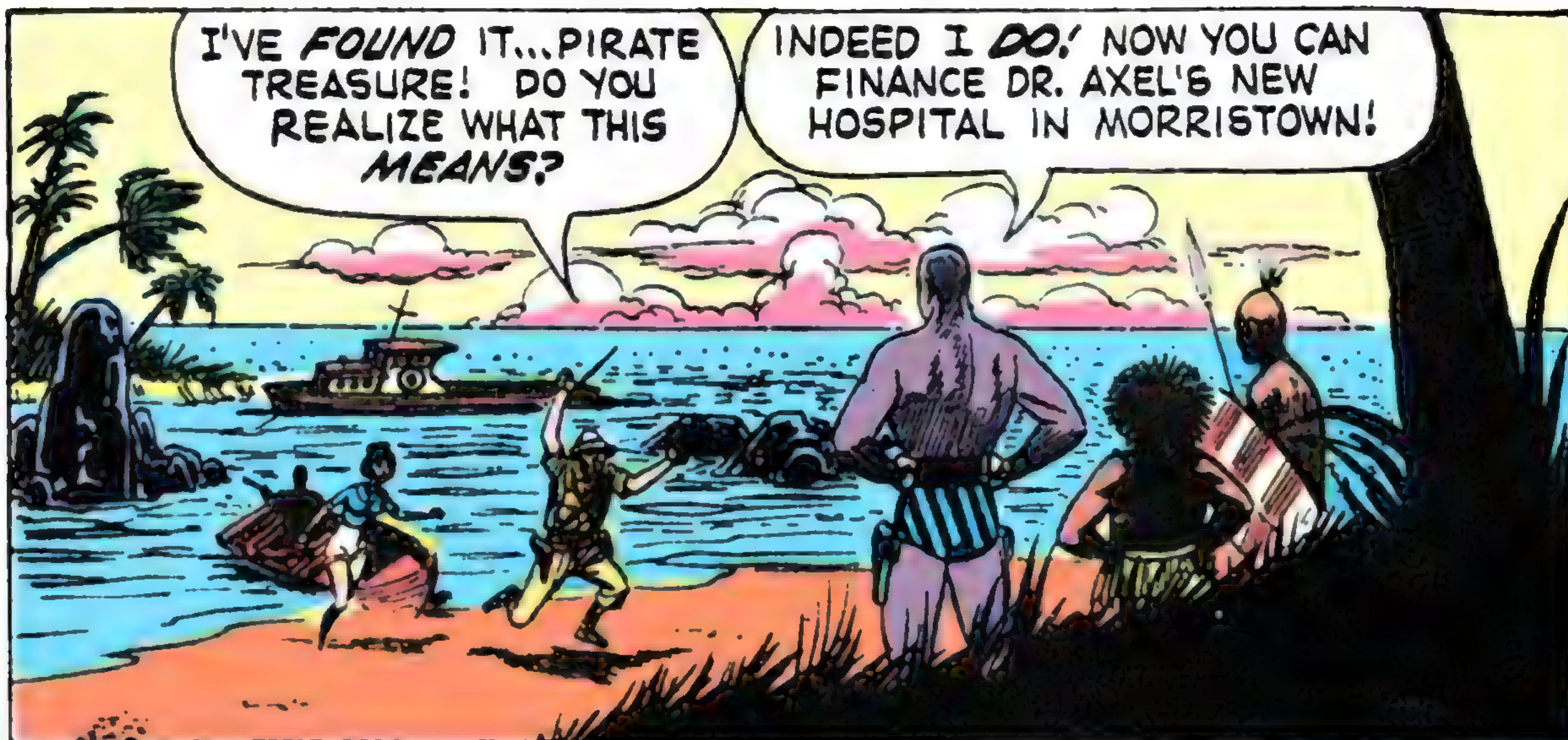
The PHANTOM The TREASURE of BENGALI BAY

FIFTY FATHOMS DOWN IN THE MURKY DEPTHS OF BENGALI BAY LIES AN ANCIENT HULK, THE ROTTING REMAINS OF A ONCE-POWERFUL PIRATE SHIP. AND IN THIS WATERY TOMB, A FEARSOME LEGEND... A SPECTRE WHO GUARDS A FORTUNE IN PIRATE TREASURE... A TERROR KNOWN AS *THE CUTLASS*!

29

THOSE
NATIVE DIVERS
WEREN'T
IMAGINING THINGS!
THIS CHARACTER'S
FOR *REAL*!





I'VE *FOUND* IT...PIRATE TREASURE! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS *MEANS?*

INDEED I *DO!* NOW YOU CAN FINANCE DR. AXEL'S NEW HOSPITAL IN MORRISTOWN!



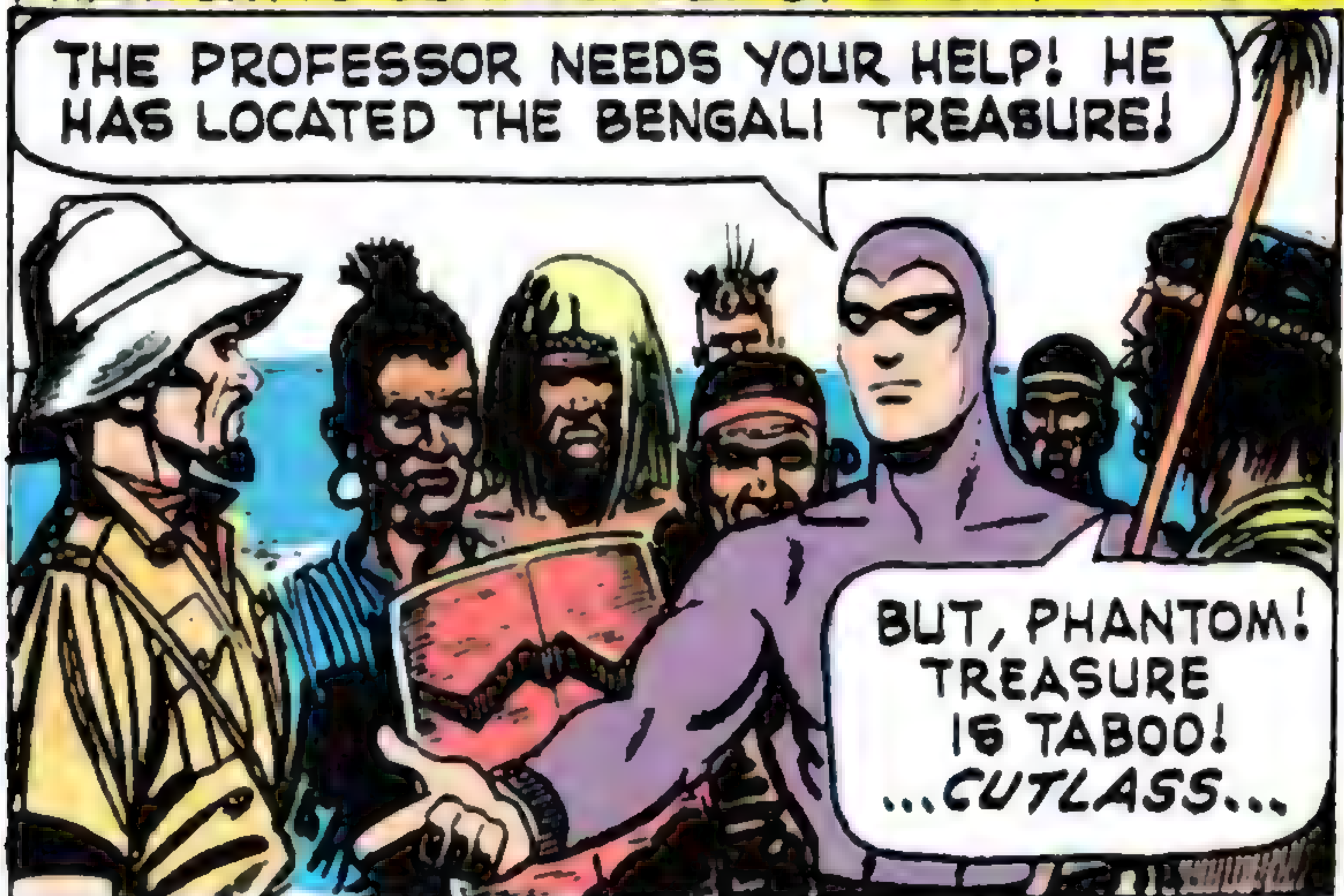
BUT I'LL NEED HELP ...DIVERS, WORKMEN! THE GOLD IS IN DEEP WATER!



GURAN! WE NEED MANPOWER FAST!

JUNGLE DRUMS WILL BRING HELP YOU NEED, O PHANTOM!

BEFORE THE ECHO OF THE DRUMS IS GONE, THE PHANTOM IS SURROUNDED BY EAGER NATIVES...



THE PROFESSOR NEEDS YOUR HELP! HE HAS LOCATED THE BENGALI TREASURE!

BUT, PHANTOM! TREASURE IS TABOO! ...*CUTLASS*...

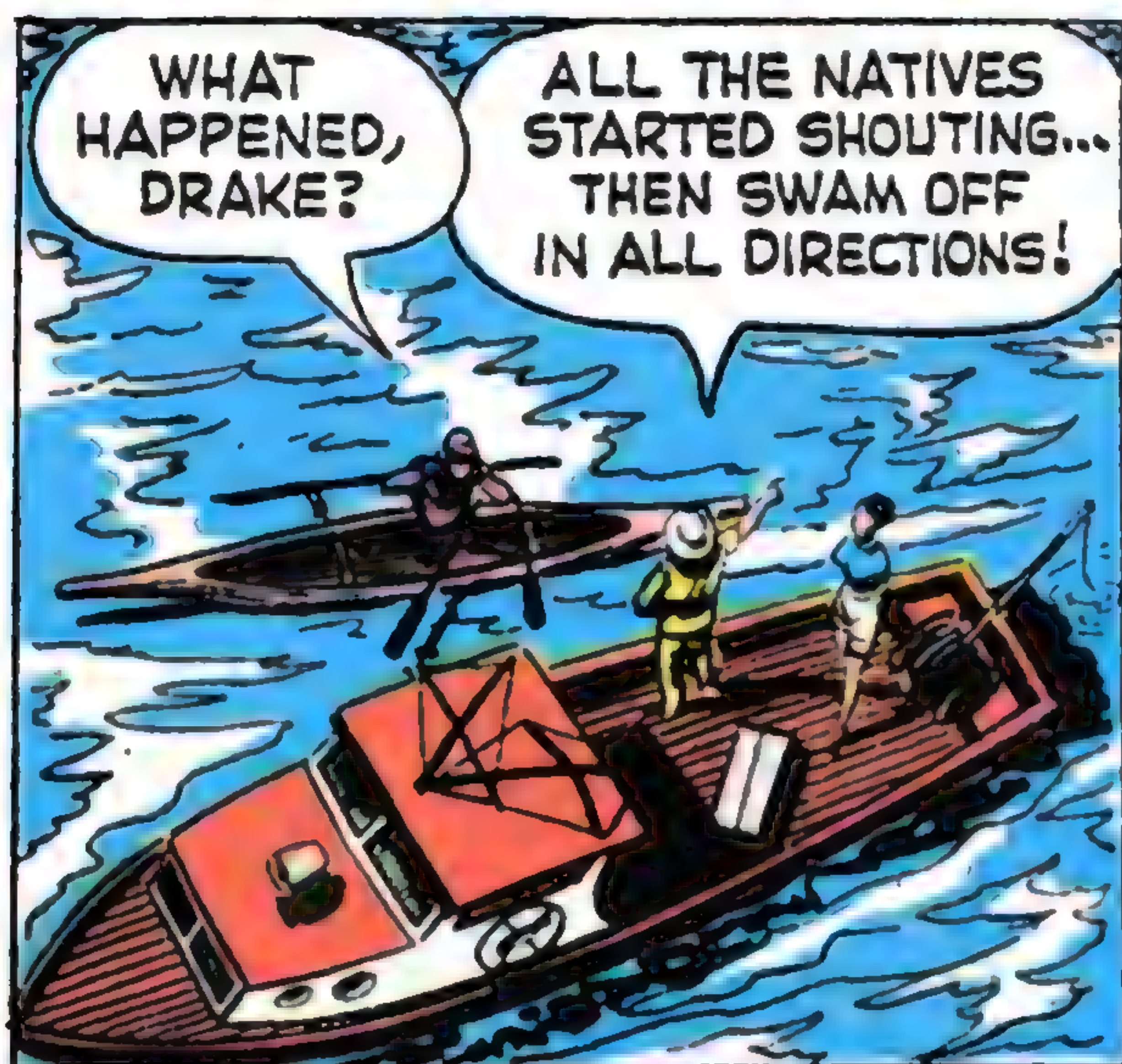
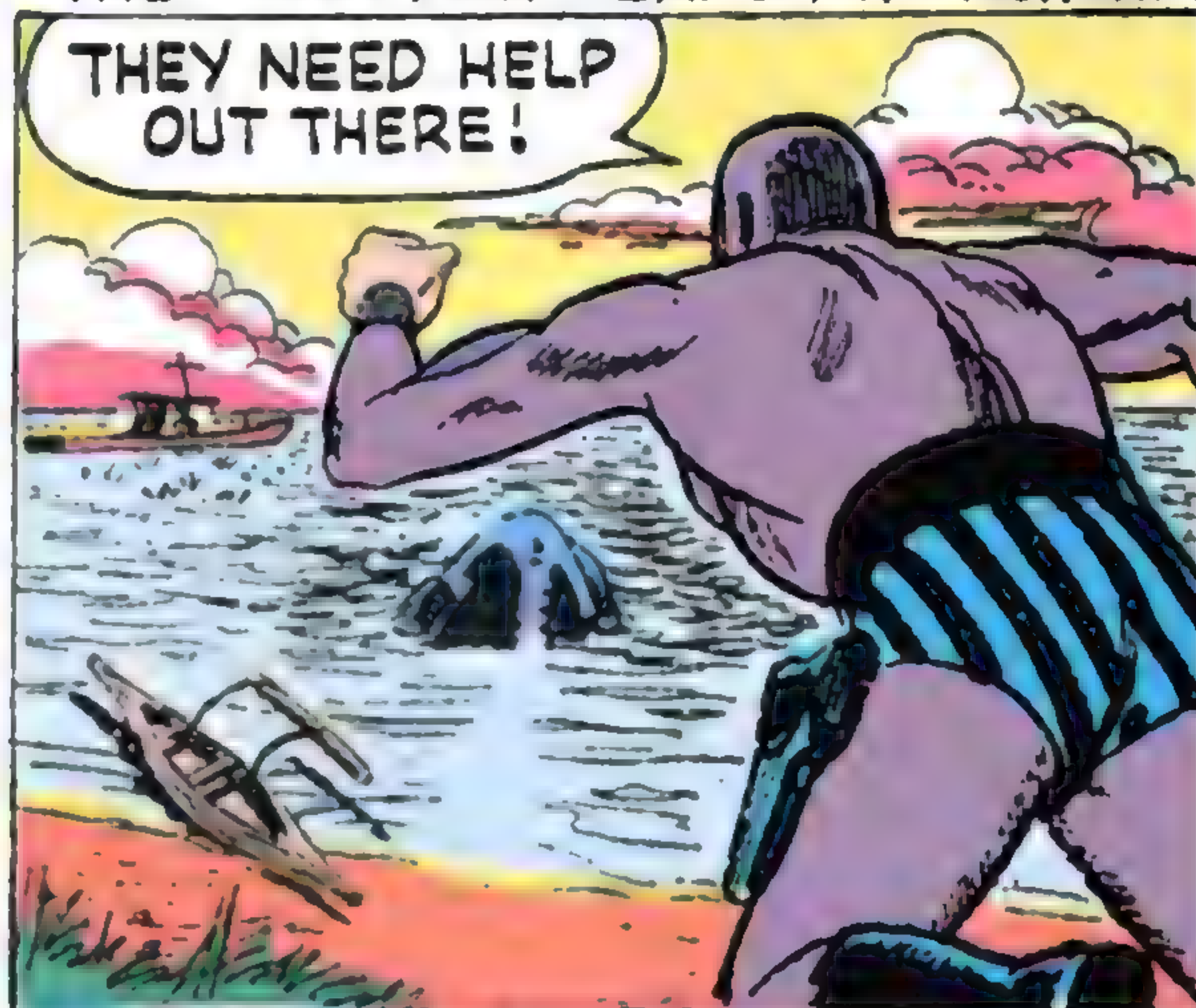


NONSENSE! THE *CUTLASS* DOESN'T EXIST!

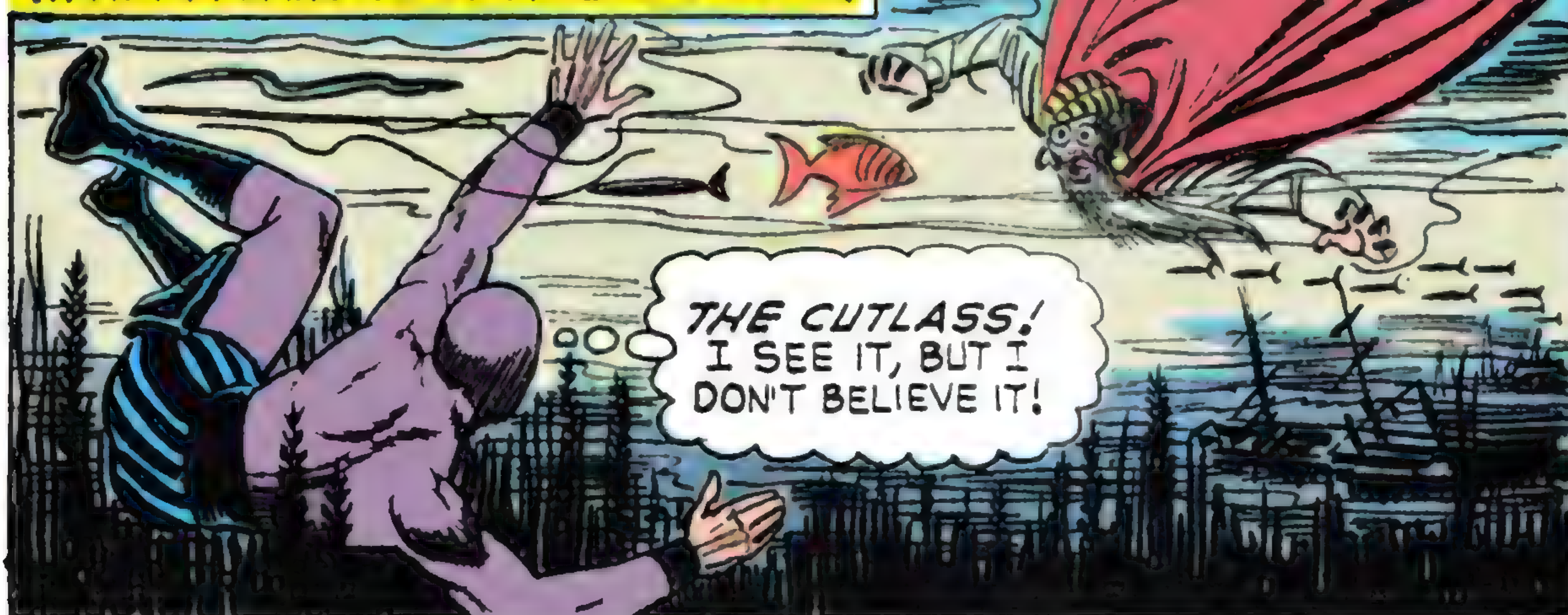
THE PHANTOM MANAGES TO CONVINCE THE FRIGHTENED NATIVES... BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY IN THE WATER THAN THE CUTLASS STRIKES...



AT THE FIRST SOUND OF TROUBLE, THE PHANTOM LEAPS INTO ACTION...



THEN, AT THE BOTTOM OF BENGALI BAY, THE PHANTOM COMES FACE TO FACE WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE A REAL GHOST...



THE PHANTOM LASHES OUT WITH HIS MIGHTY FISTS, BUT HITS NOTHING...



AN INSTANT LATER...



MEANWHILE, ON THE SURFACE, DIANA SLIPS ON THE WET DECK...



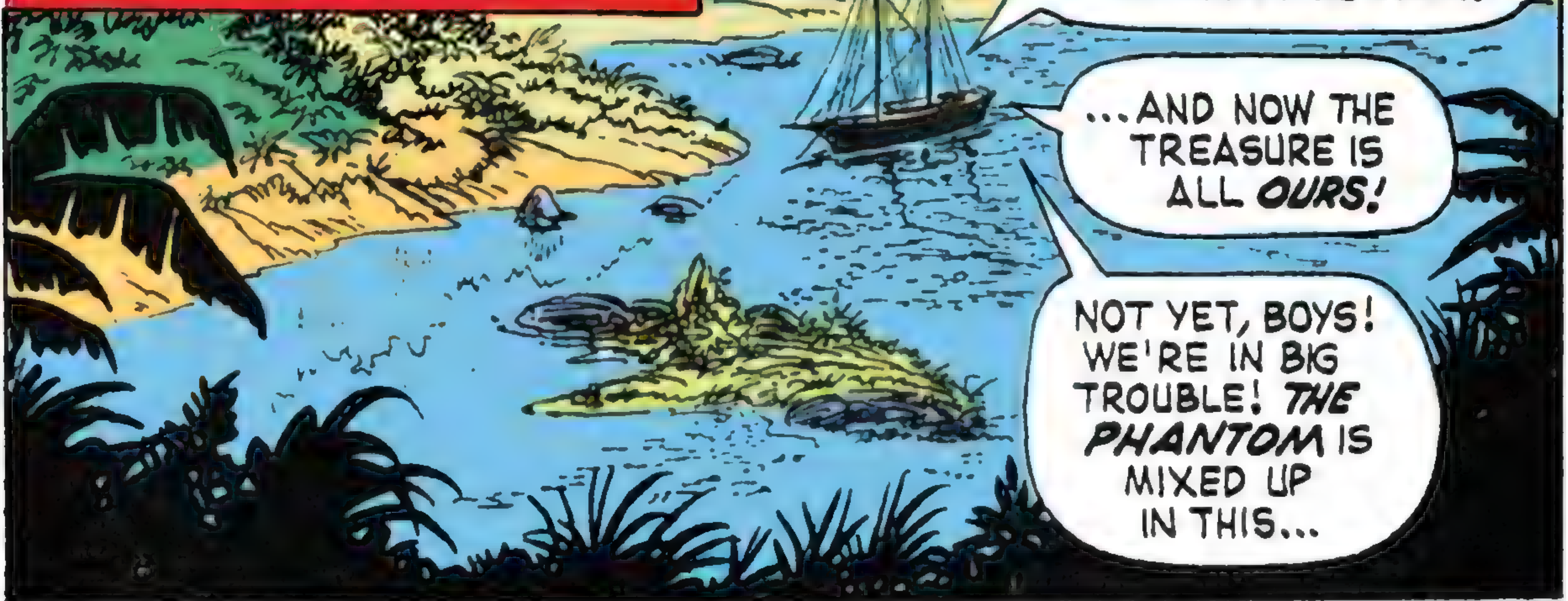
PHANTOM! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! IT'S DIANA... SHE'S BEEN HURT!



NOT MUCH WE CAN DO FOR HER OUT HERE, ROY! LET'S GET HER TO DR. AXEL... FAST! YOUR TREASURE WILL HAVE TO WAIT!



IN A SMALL COVE FURTHER DOWN THE COAST, THE CUTLASS COMES OUT OF THE WATER...



THOSE NATIVES SURE WERE NOISY, ZEEKS! I GUESS THEY WON'T BE BACK!

...AND NOW THE TREASURE IS ALL *OURS*!

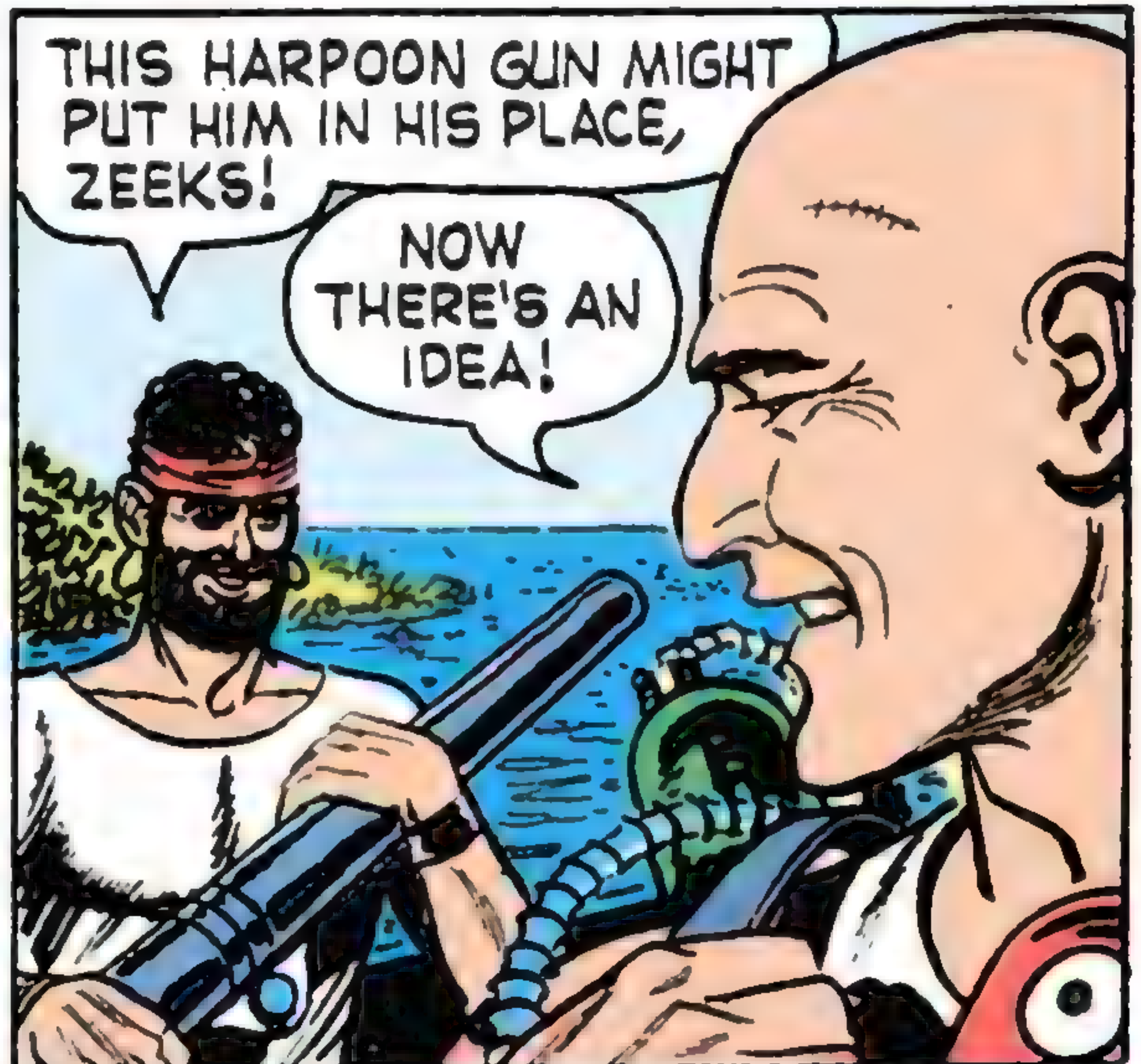
NOT YET, BOYS! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! *THE PHANTOM* IS MIXED UP IN THIS...

...THEY ALL RAN OFF LIKE A BUNCH OF KIDS! THEN *HE* CAME ALONG! I GOT AWAY, BUT I WAS LUCKY!



THIS HARPOON GUN MIGHT PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE, ZEEKS!

NOW THERE'S AN IDEA!



MEANWHILE, AT DR. AXEL'S JUNGLE HOSPITAL...

THAT WAS A NASTY BUMP! BUT SHE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A DAY OR SO!

THAT'S A RELIEF!



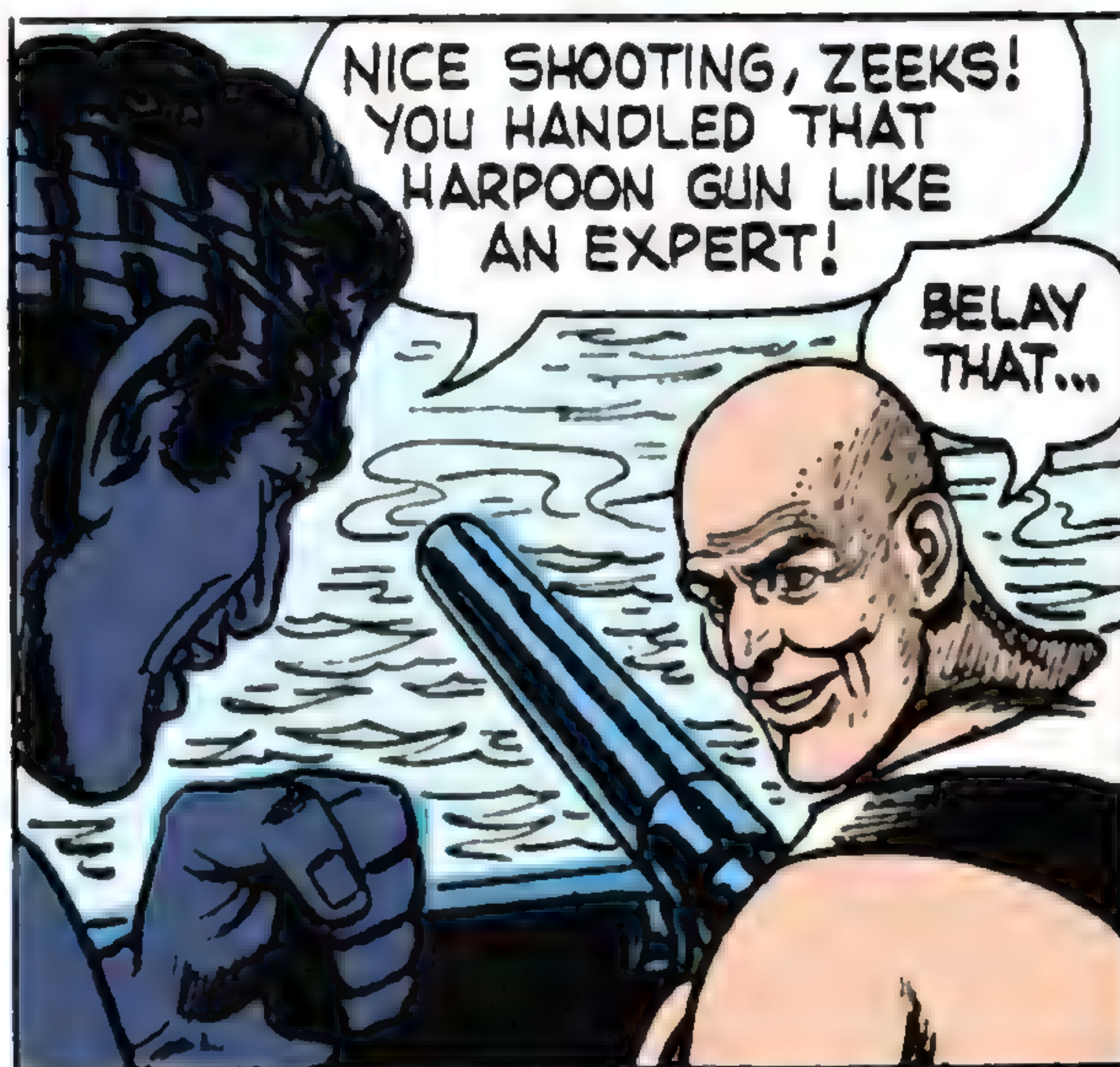
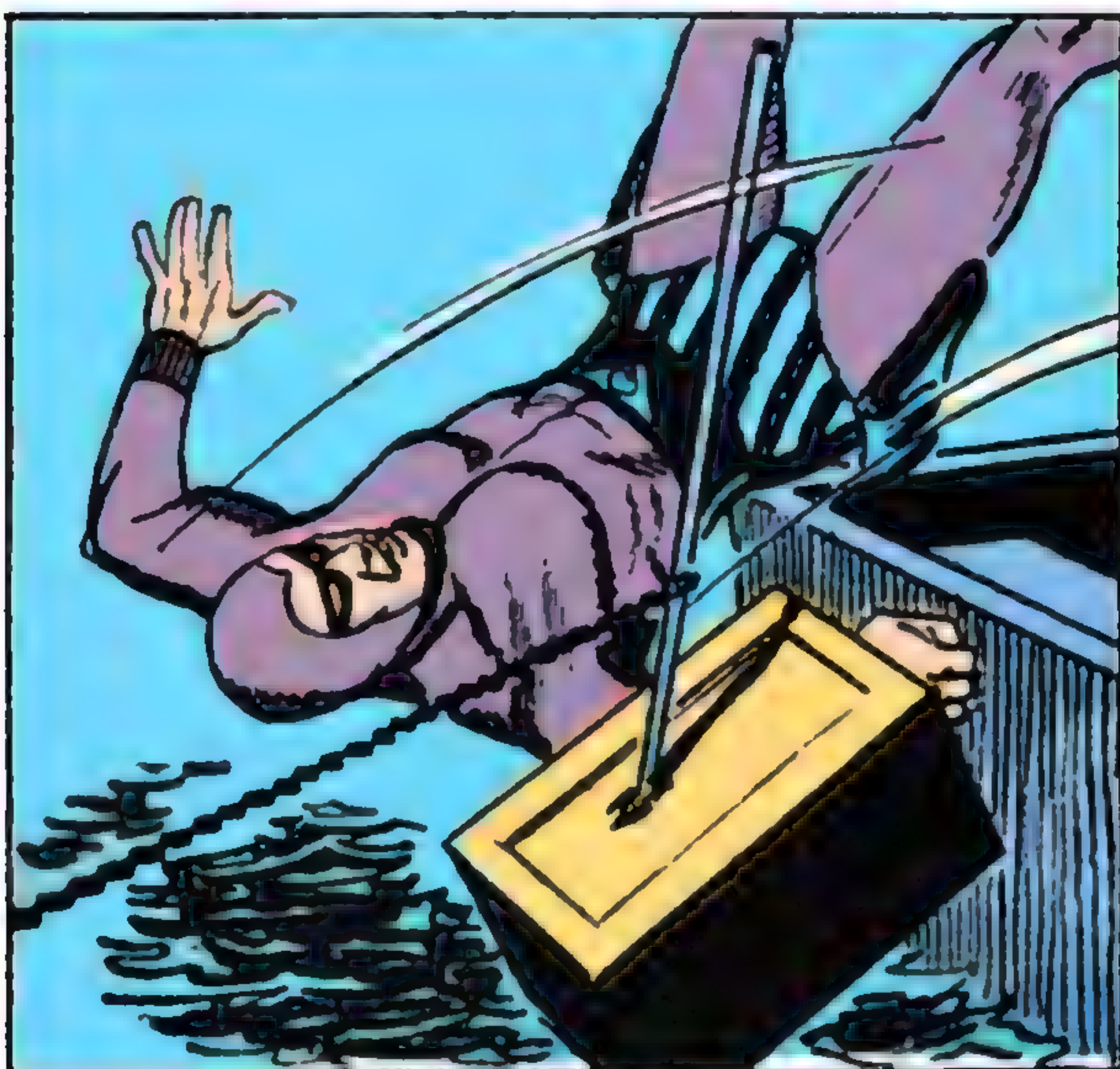
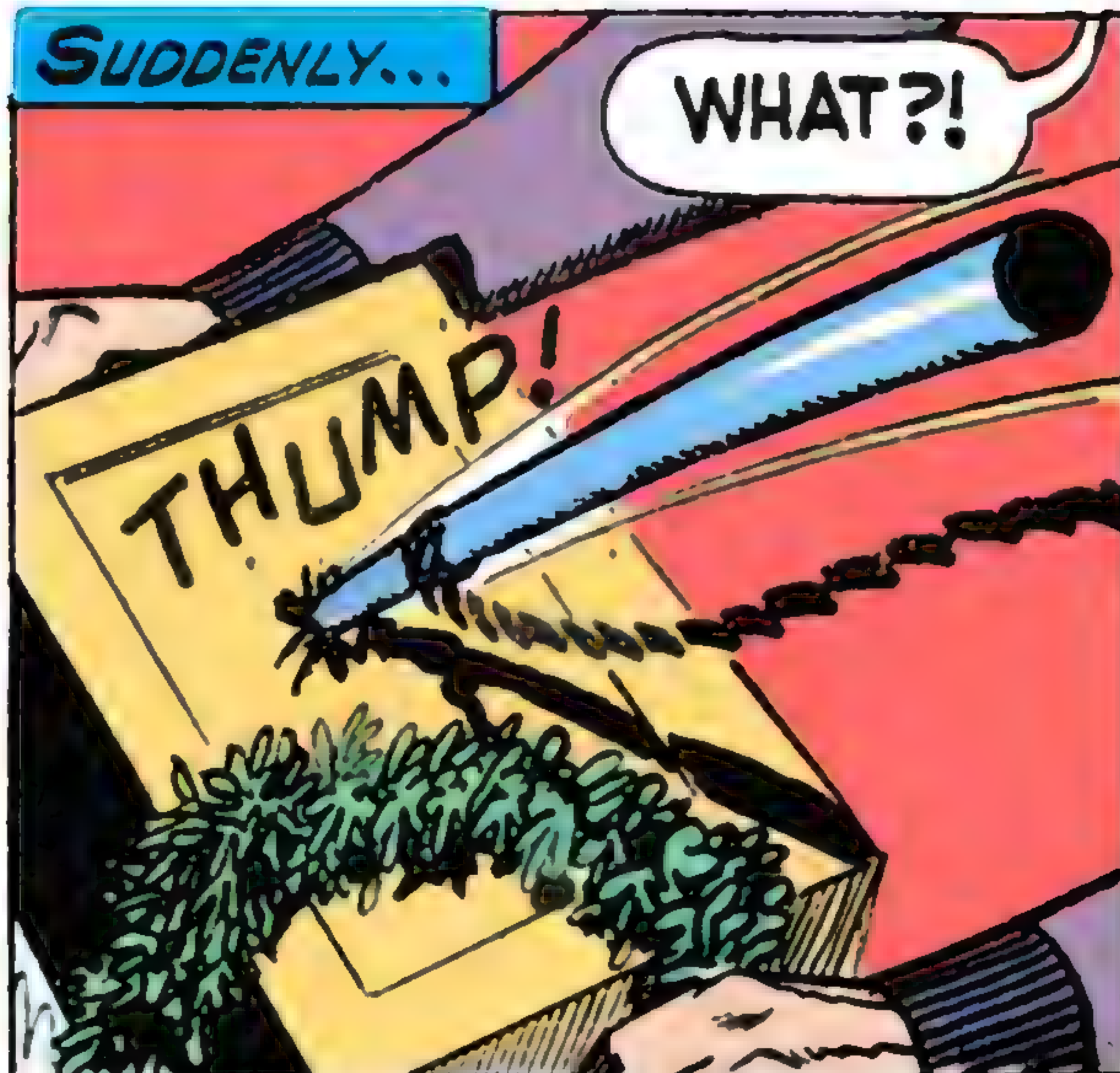
NOW I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH A *GHOST*!

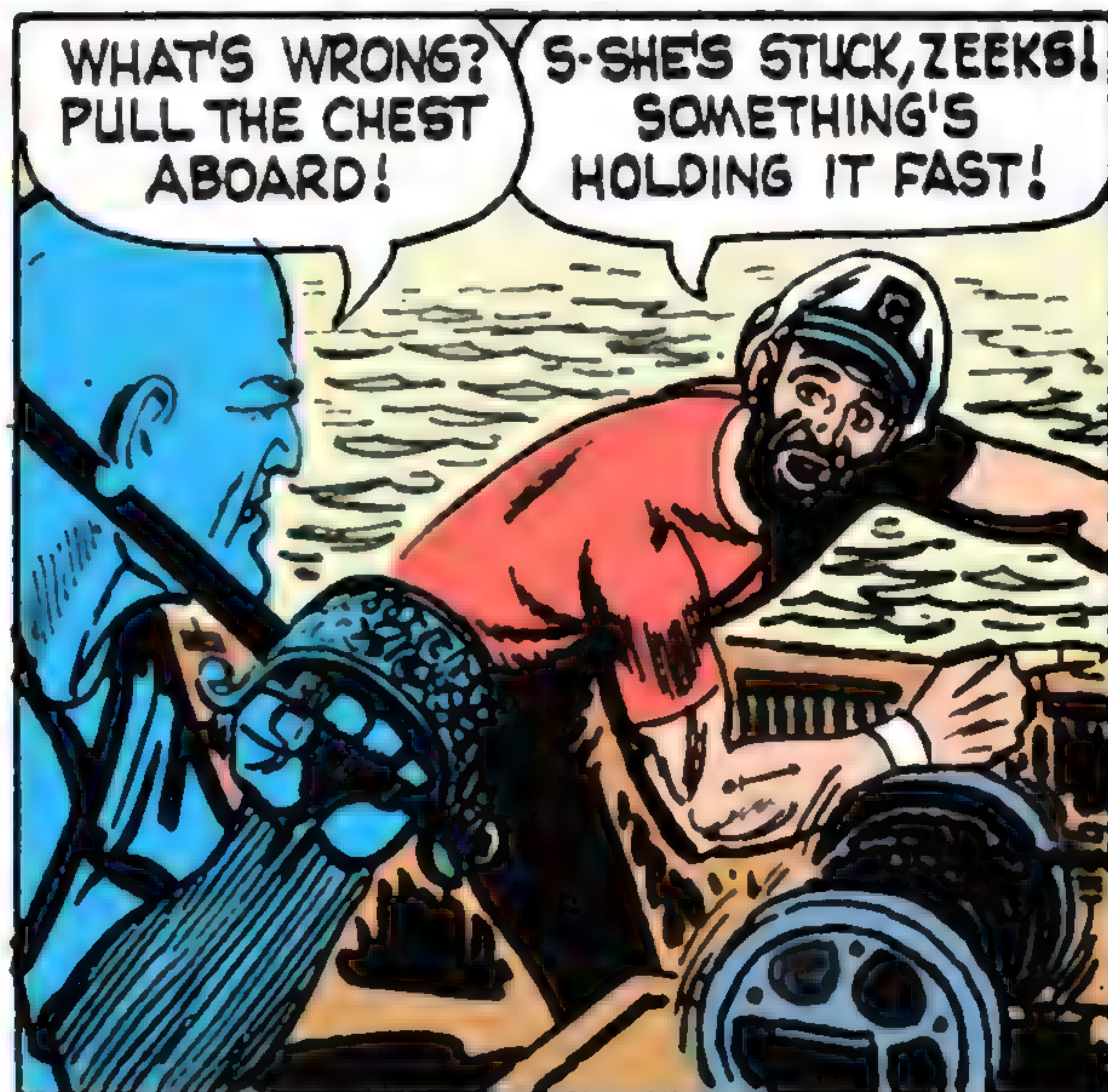
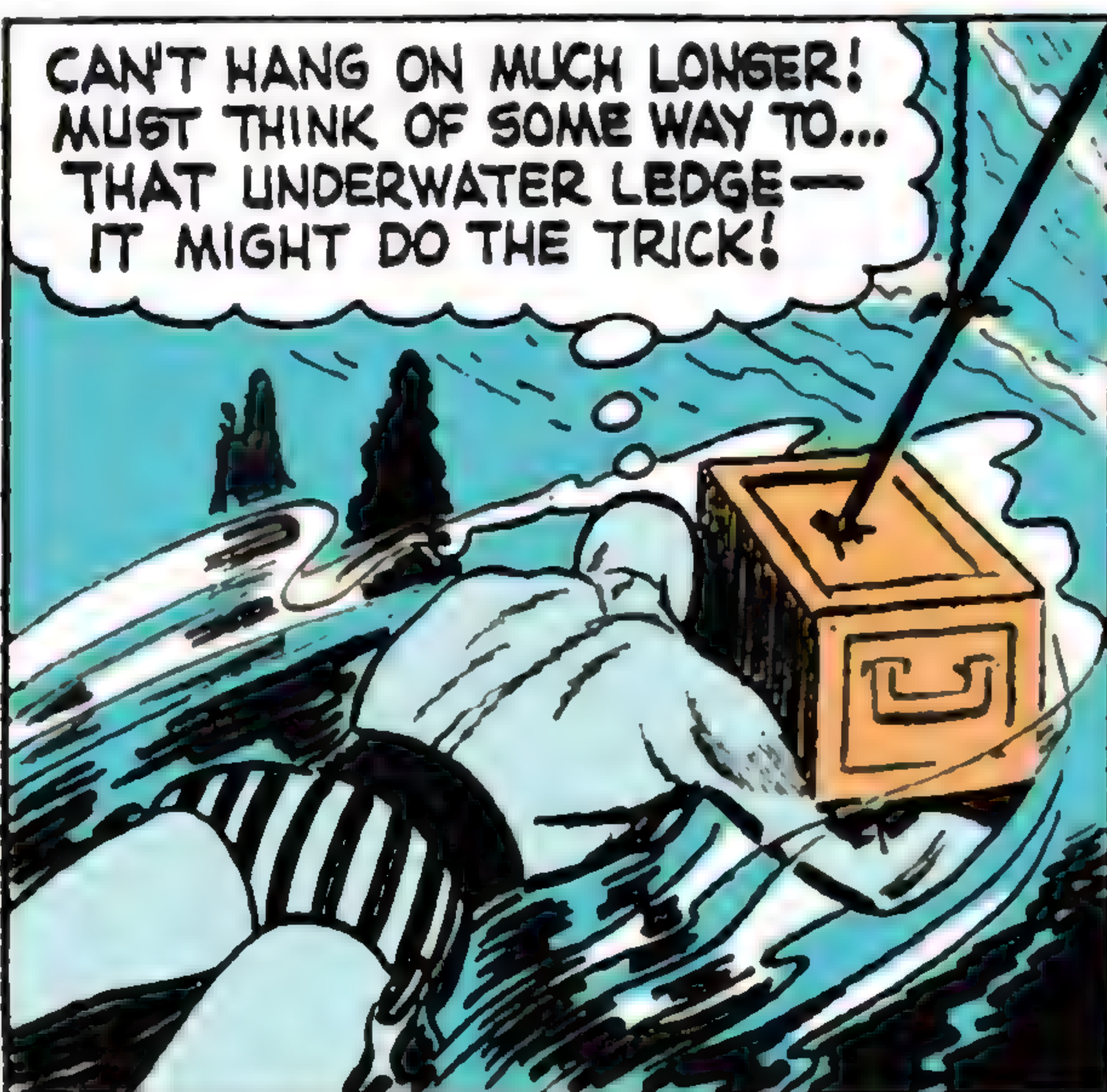
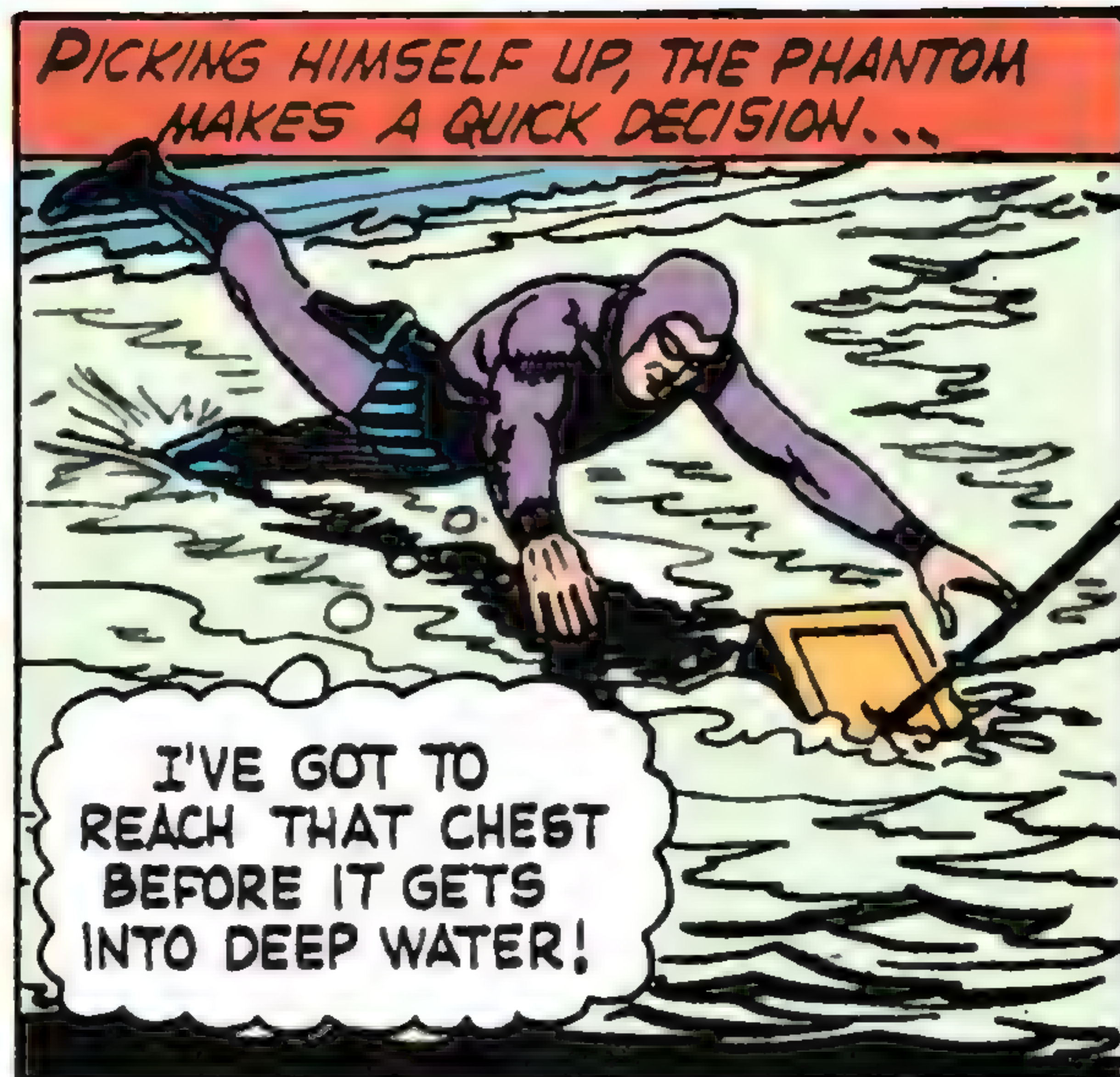


LATER, THE PHANTOM RAISES THE TREASURE IN SHALLOW WATER...

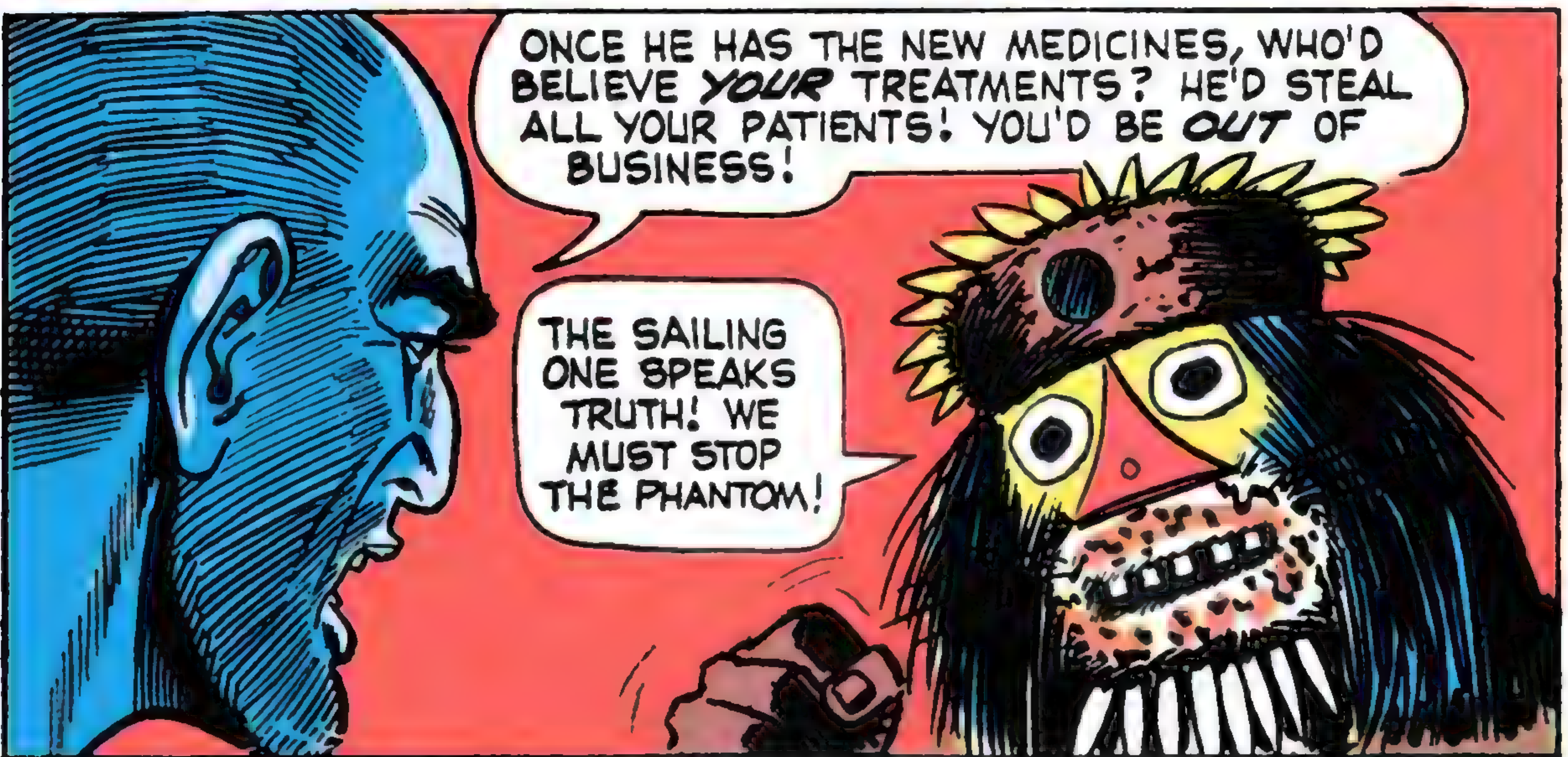
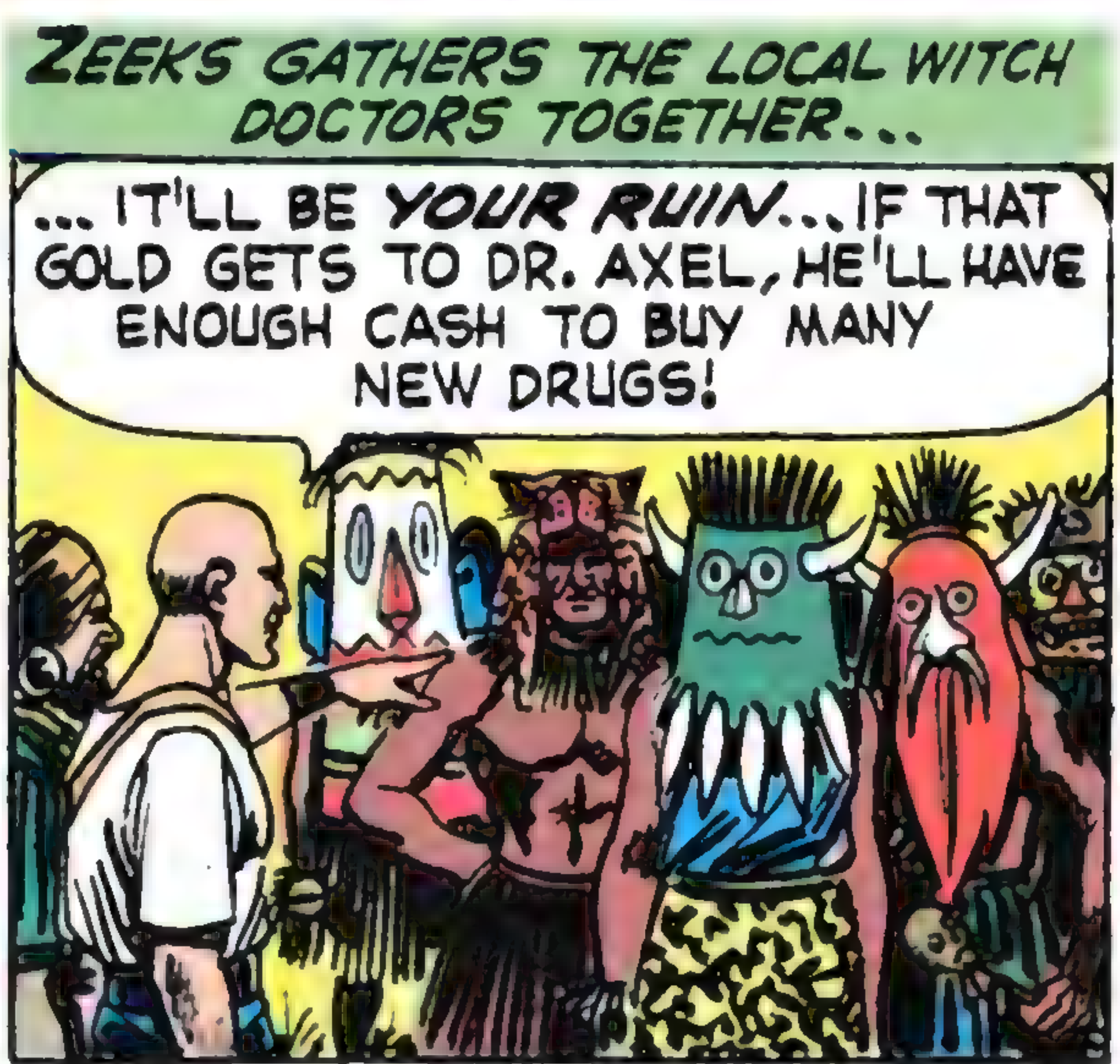


SUDDENLY...











IN A SHORT TIME...

HE HAS NOT SURFACED! HE IS DEAD!
HE CANNOT LEAD OUR PEOPLE AWAY
FROM OUR MAGIC ANY LONGER!



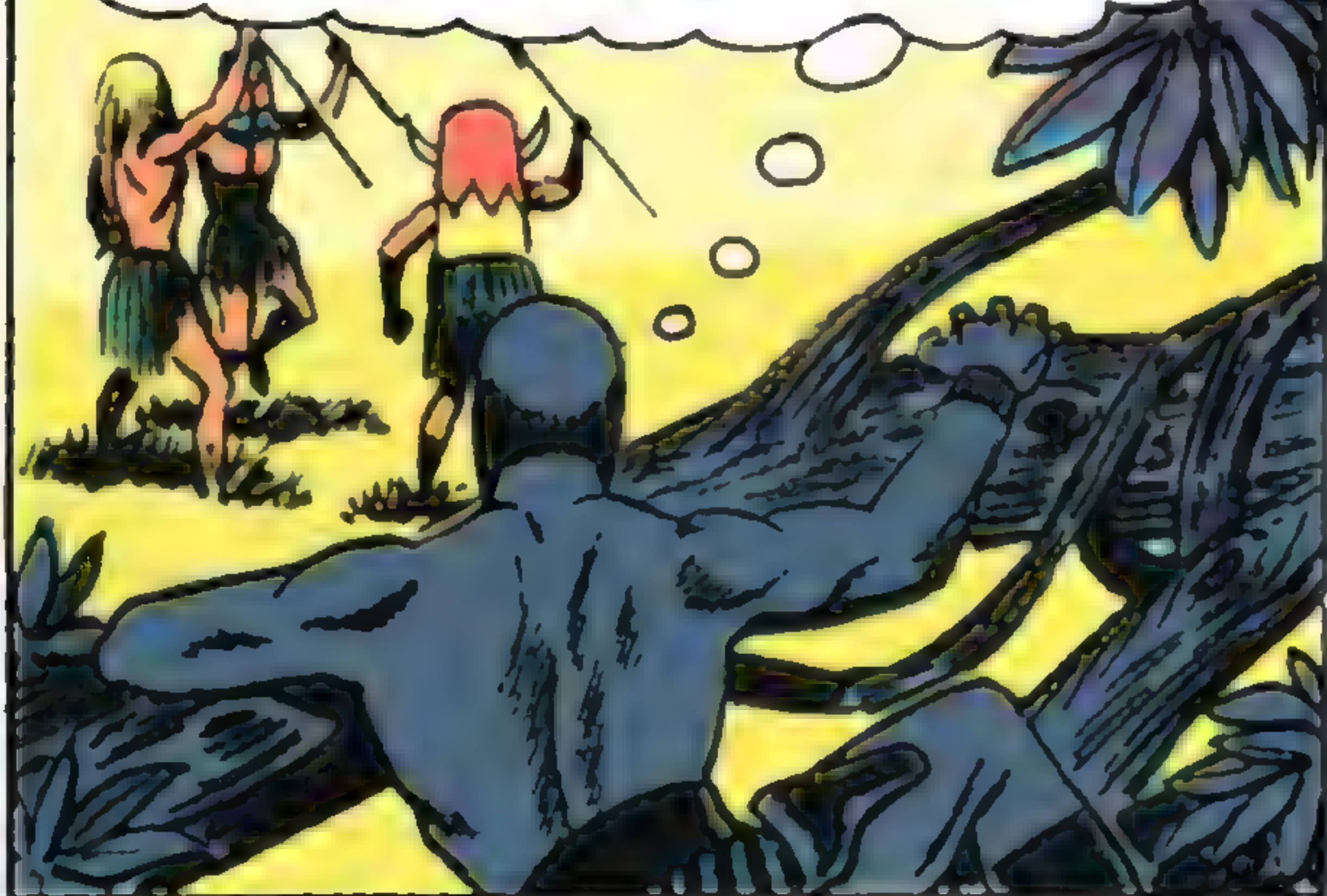
**THE WITCH DOCTORS FAIL TO CHECK
THE TALL GRASS...**

I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE
WITCH DOCTORS ARE AGAINST US?
WILL THERE BE **MORE** WHEN WE
PICK UP THE TRAIL AGAIN?



A HALF MILE DOWNSTREAM...

JUST AS I THOUGHT... THERE ARE
MORE OF THEM! THIS CALLS FOR
SPECIAL TREATMENT!



SHORTLY...

**AIEEEEE!
LOOK!**



YII! A DEMON FROM THE RIVER!!

GOOD! THAT CLEARS
THE WAY! ON TO
DR. AXEL'S!

AND FURTHER DOWN THE TRAIL...

UP AHEAD,
PIRATES!

QUICKLY, ROY...TOSS
THE GOLD PIECES
FROM THE CHEST
TO THEM!



THERE ~~HE~~ IS!
HE'S TRAPPED!

HEY! WHAT'S
THAT THEY'RE
THROWING?



GOLD!
HE'S THROWING
US THE
TREASURE!!



FORGET ABOUT
~~HIM~~! GRAB
ALL THE GOLD
YOU CAN, YOU
LUBBERS!



AS THE GREED-CRAZED PIRATES SEARCH
THE BRUSH FOR LOOSE DOUBLOONS, THE
PHANTOM CIRCLES BEHIND THEM...

THERE'S MORE
WHERE THAT CAME
FROM, MEN!

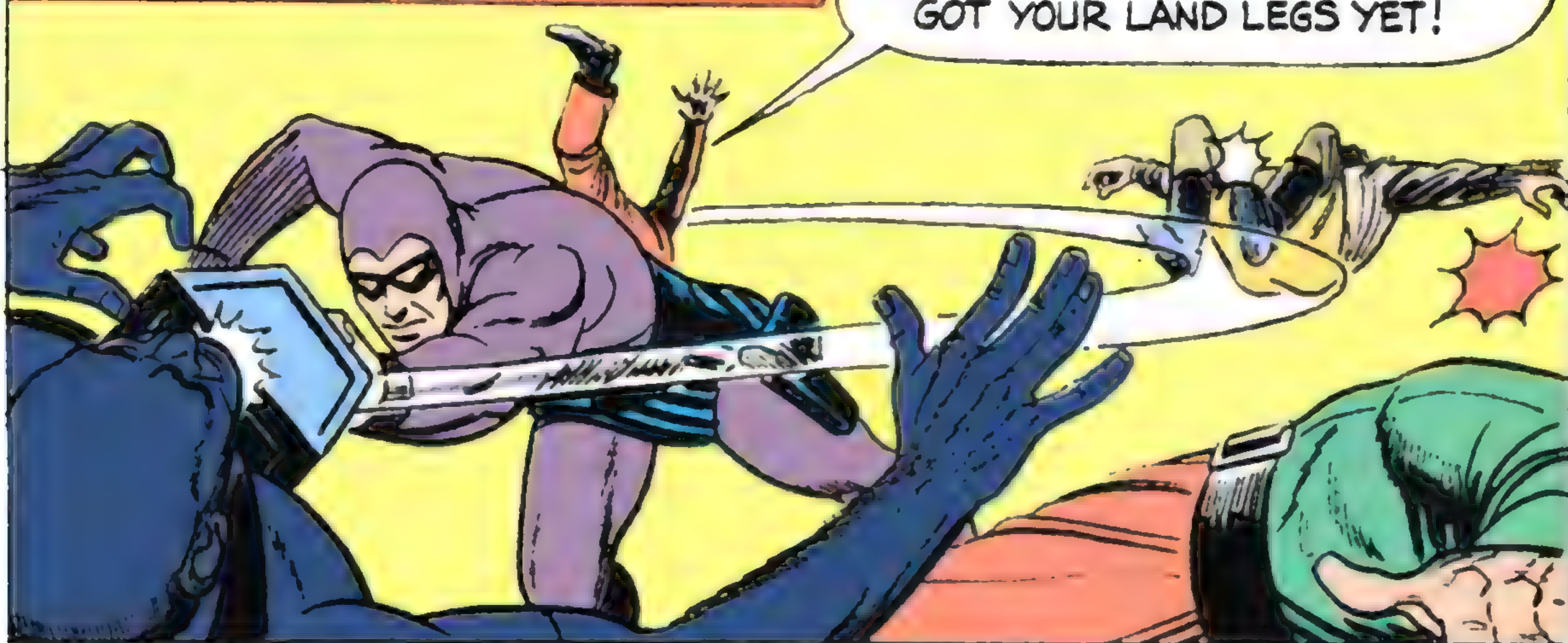
HE'S GOT
THE CHEST!

GRAB
IT!



BEFORE THE PIRATES CAN LIFT THEIR WEAPONS, LIGHTNING STRIKES!

YOU CHARACTERS SHOULD STICK TO THE HIGH SEAS... YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOUR LAND LEGS YET!



LIKE A TORNADO, THE PHANTOM WHIRLS AMONG THE PIRATES...

— BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO BEING ON LAND — **BEHIND BARS!**



LATER...

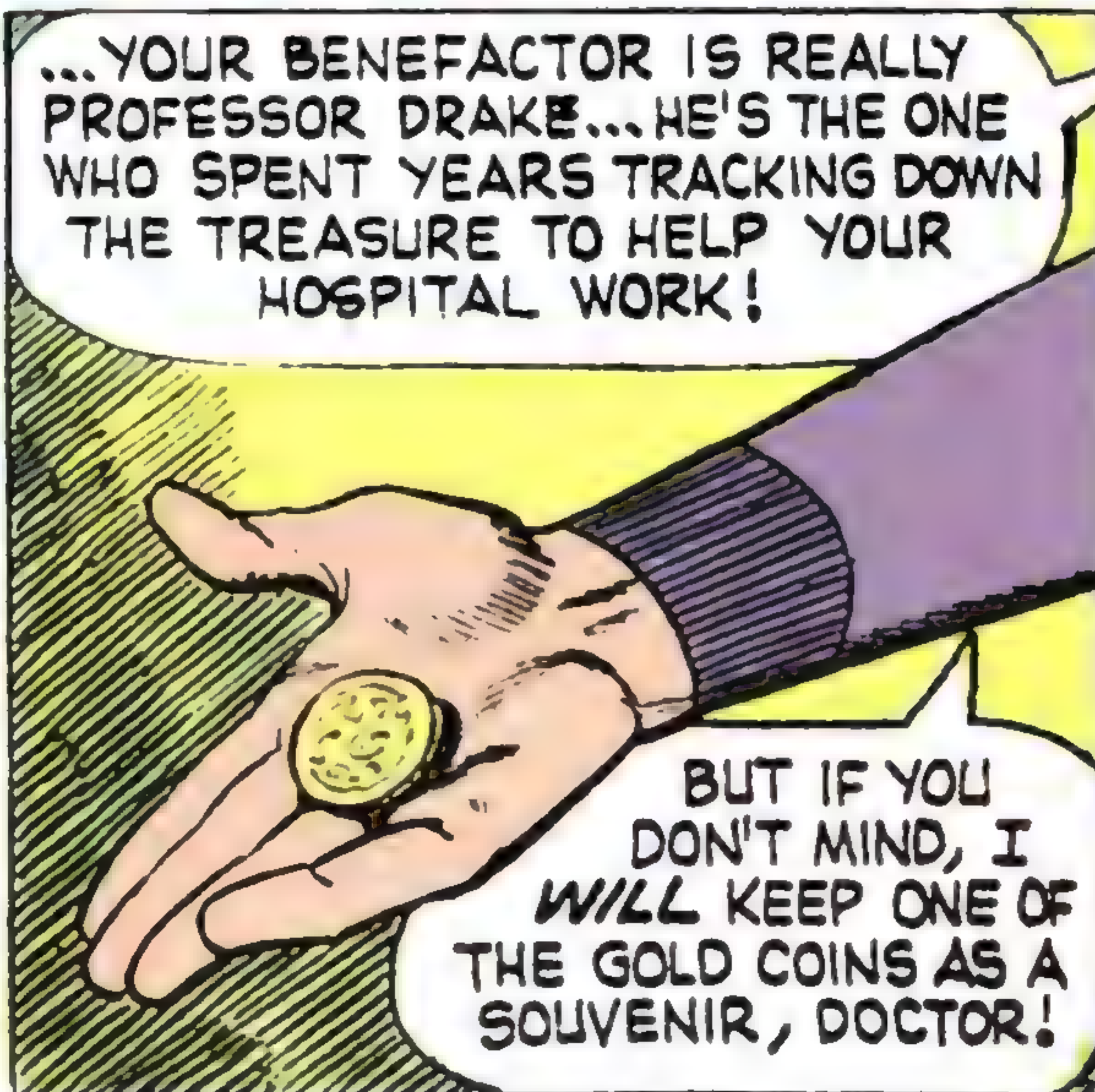
IT'S A **MIRACLE!** A NEW HOSPITAL AND THE MONEY TO RUN IT! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, PHANTOM?

YOU CAN'T, DR. AXEL...



...YOUR **BENEFACTOR** IS REALLY PROFESSOR DRAKE... HE'S THE ONE WHO SPENT YEARS TRACKING DOWN THE TREASURE TO HELP YOUR HOSPITAL WORK!

BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I **WILL** KEEP ONE OF THE GOLD COINS AS A **SOUVENIR**, DOCTOR!



THE PHANTOM

THE TERROR TIGER

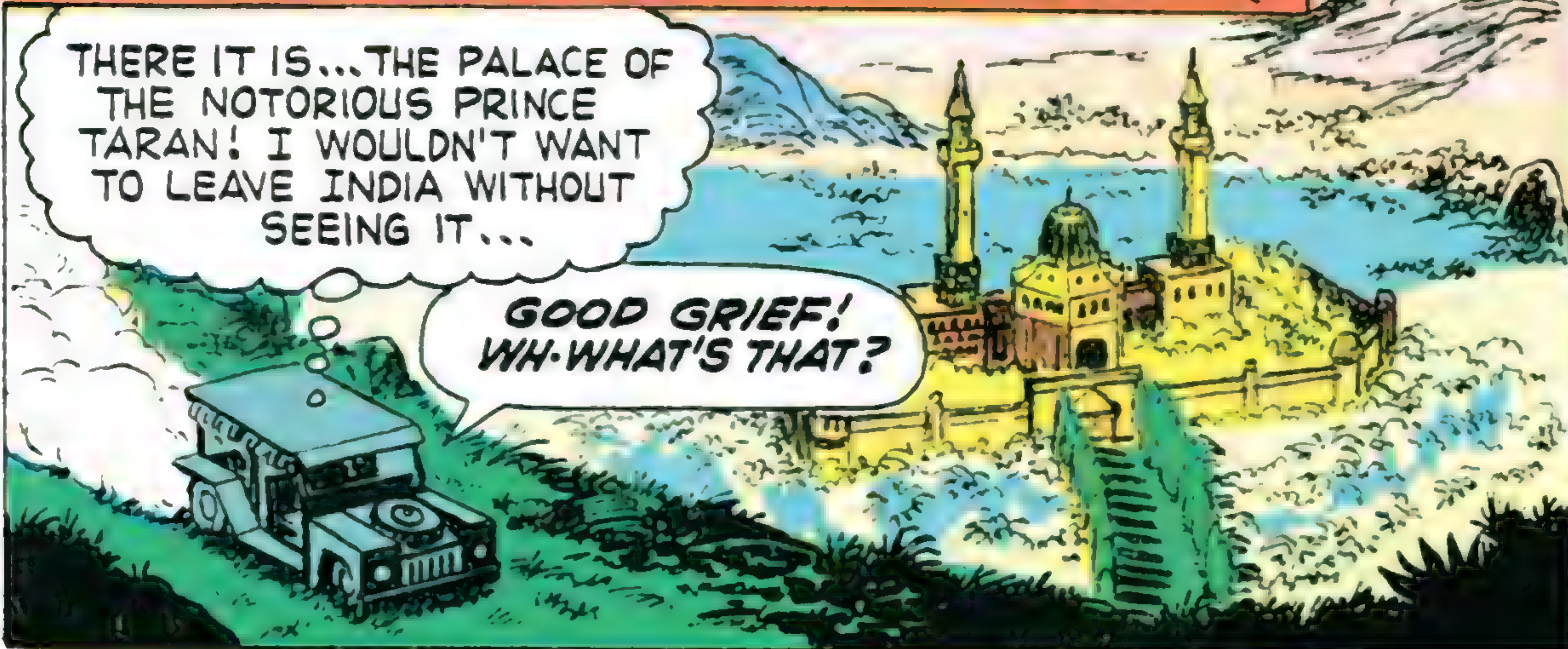
TRAPPED IN THE FEARSOME MAZE OF INDIA, THE PHANTOM HAD BUT ONE WEAPON TO BATTLE THE DEADLY TIGER WHO WAS TRACKING HIM... A DIAMOND DAGGER GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS FATHER, THE PHANTOM BEFORE HIM. AND THE VERY LIFE OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS DEPENDED UPON HIS REMEMBERING A STORY HIS FATHER TOLD HIM AS A CHILD. . .



AN OLD FRIEND OF THE PHANTOM, TRAVELING IN INDIA
SUDDENLY COMES ACROSS AN ASTONISHING SIGHT...

THERE IT IS...THE PALACE OF
THE NOTORIOUS PRINCE
TARAN! I WOULDN'T WANT
TO LEAVE INDIA WITHOUT
SEEING IT...

GOOD GRIEF!
WH-WHAT'S THAT?



HIS EYES GO WIDE WITH WONDER
AS HE PEERS THROUGH HIS GLASSES
INTO THE PALACE COURTYARD...

WH-WHY, IT'S
THE **PHANTOM**
BEING ATTACKED
BY A TIGER!

NO...NO...IT'S A
DUMMY OF THE
PHANTOM...

WH-WHAT
ON
EARTH?



AND AS COLONEL HUNTINGTON MOVES
IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...

HO, BENGU!
SPRING!
KILL!

KAZAR! A
MAGNIFICENT
CATCH!



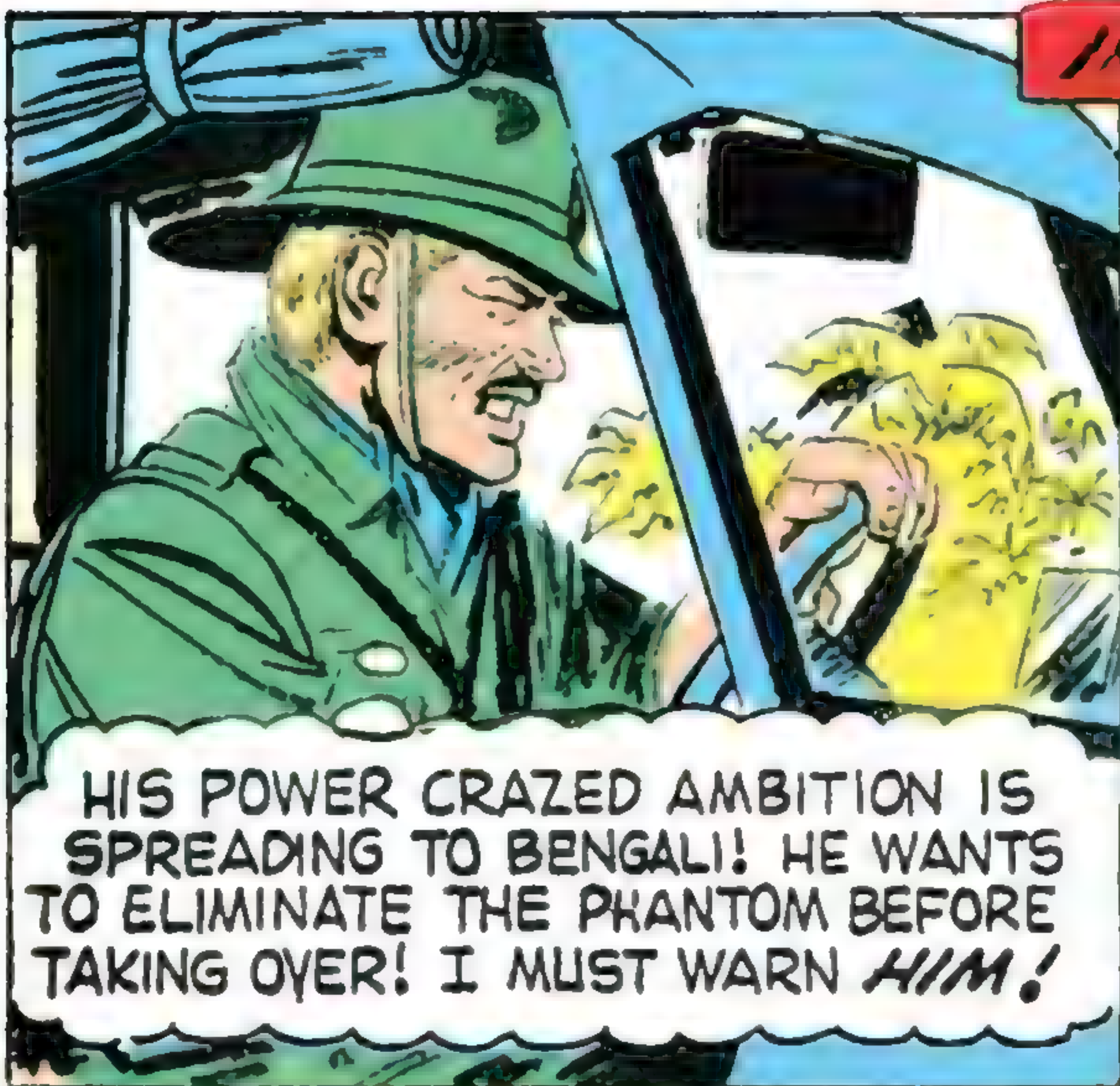
IN ANOTHER WEEK
WE'LL TRAVEL TO
BENGALI AND I SHALL
TURN YOU LOOSE
NEAR THE DEEP
WOODS, TO SEEK OUT...

...THE
REAL
PHANTOM!



W-WHY, THAT DIABOLICAL FIEND...
PRINCE TARAN IS TRAINING THAT
CREATURE TO DESTROY THE
PHANTOM!





HIS POWER CRAZED AMBITION IS SPREADING TO BENGALI! HE WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE PHANTOM BEFORE TAKING OVER! I MUST WARN *HIM*!

IN A FEW DAYS...

A TIGER...BEING TRAINED BY PRINCE TARAN TO *HUNT ME DOWN*...

IT WAS TERRIFYING! I'M GLAD I REACHED YOU BEFORE *HE* DID!



THANK YOU FOR ALERTING ME, COLONEL! FORE-
WARNED IS FOREARMED!
YOU ARE INDEED A TRUE FRIEND!

THAT NIGHT, THE PHANTOM SITS IN DEEP THOUGHT...

YOU SEEM WORRIED, PHANTOM! IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

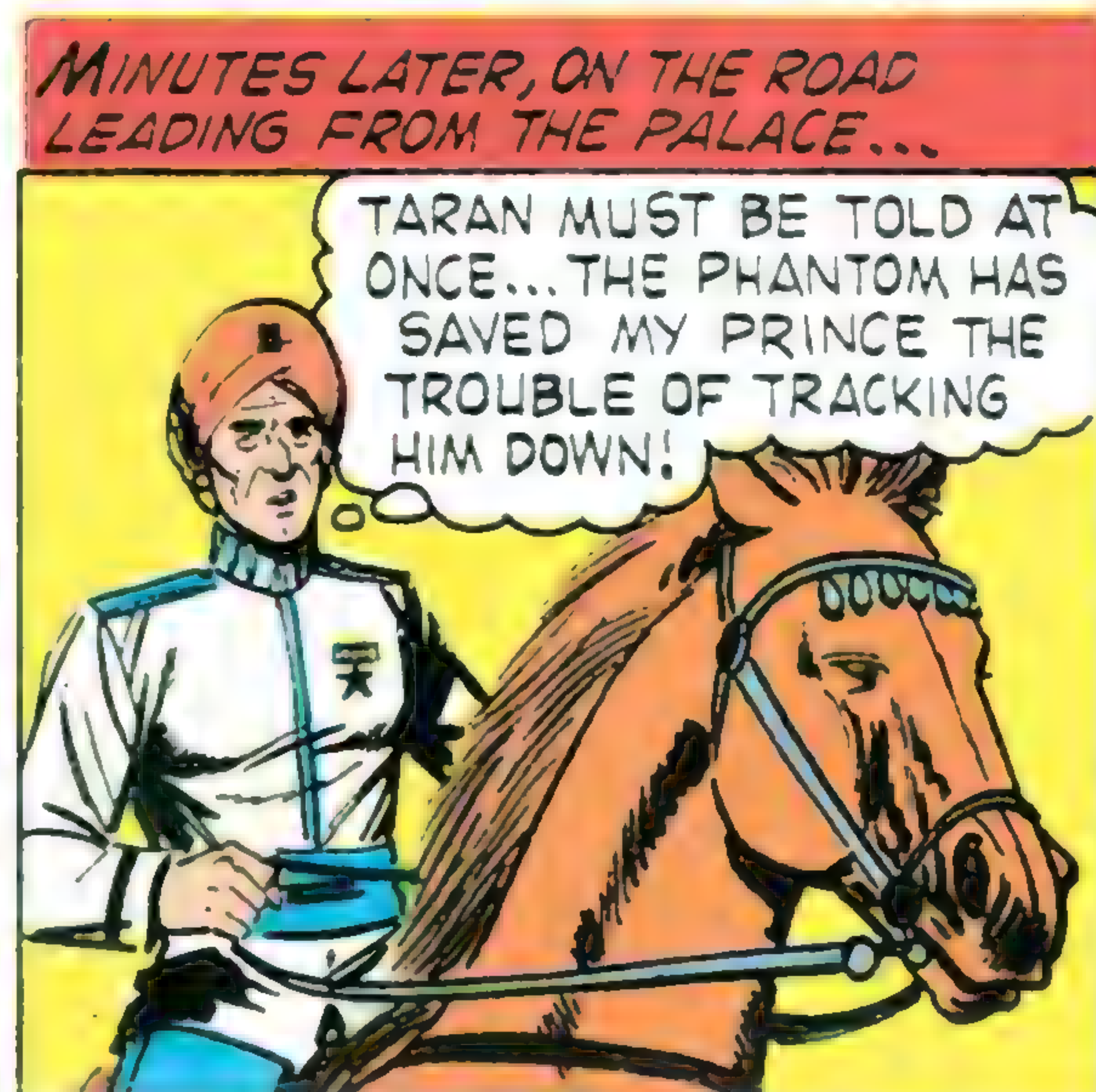
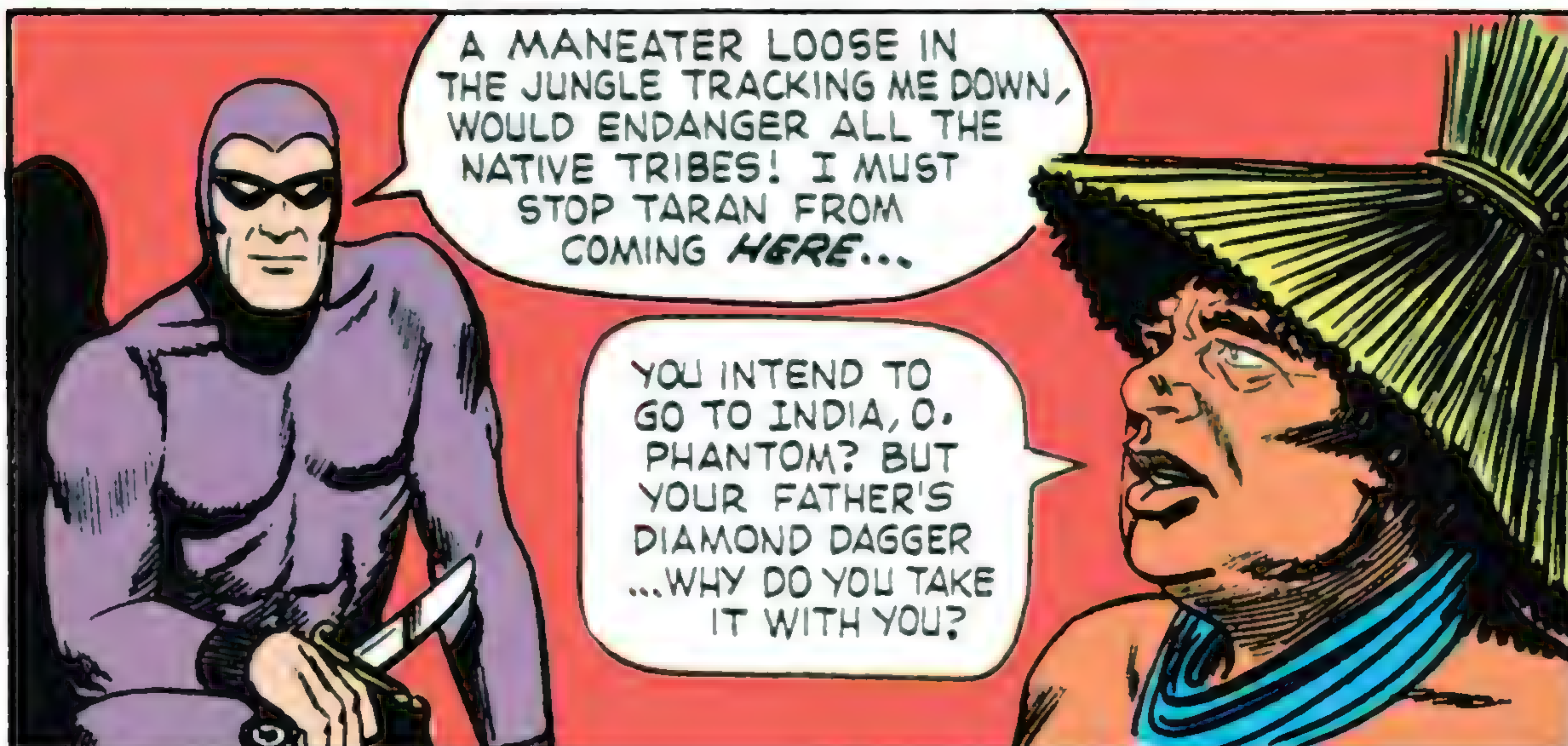
NO, GURAN... THANKS!



THE PHANTOM ARISES AND TAKES A SMALL DIAMOND-STUDDED DAGGER FROM A SECRET COMPARTMENT IN THE SKULL THRONE...

PRINCE TARAN WILL BE EASY ENOUGH TO HANDLE! BUT THAT TIGER OF HIS WORRIES ME!





THE PHANTOM AND SHAZA TALK OF THE DAYS OF THEIR FATHERS...

YES, AS A CHILD, MY FATHER ALSO TOLD ME OF THE DAY YOUR DAD SAVED HIS LIFE! THAT DAGGER WAS HIS MOST TREASURED POSSESSION!

AND THEN THE GIFT BECAME PRECIOUS TO MY FATHER...

...I REMEMBER AS A YOUNG BOY HOW HE SHOWED ME THIS COMPASS HIDDEN IN THE HANDLE! HE TOLD ME MANY STORIES, TOO, BUT...

CLICK!

...CHILDHOOD MEMORIES CAN BE HAZY! PERHAPS WE CAN TALK AGAIN WHEN I'VE FINISHED MY BUSINESS HERE!

I HOPE SO! IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR US TO BE FRIENDS!

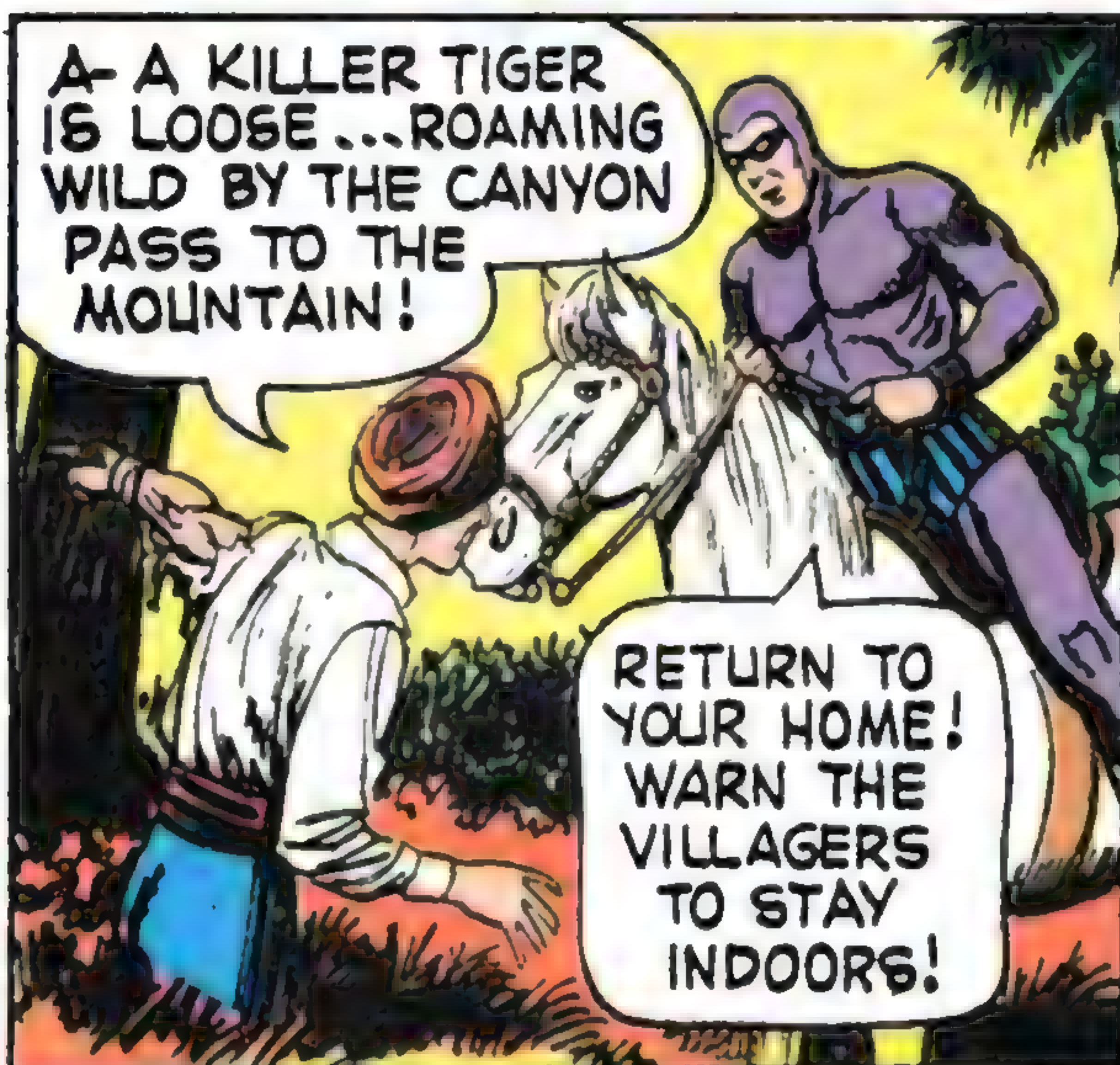
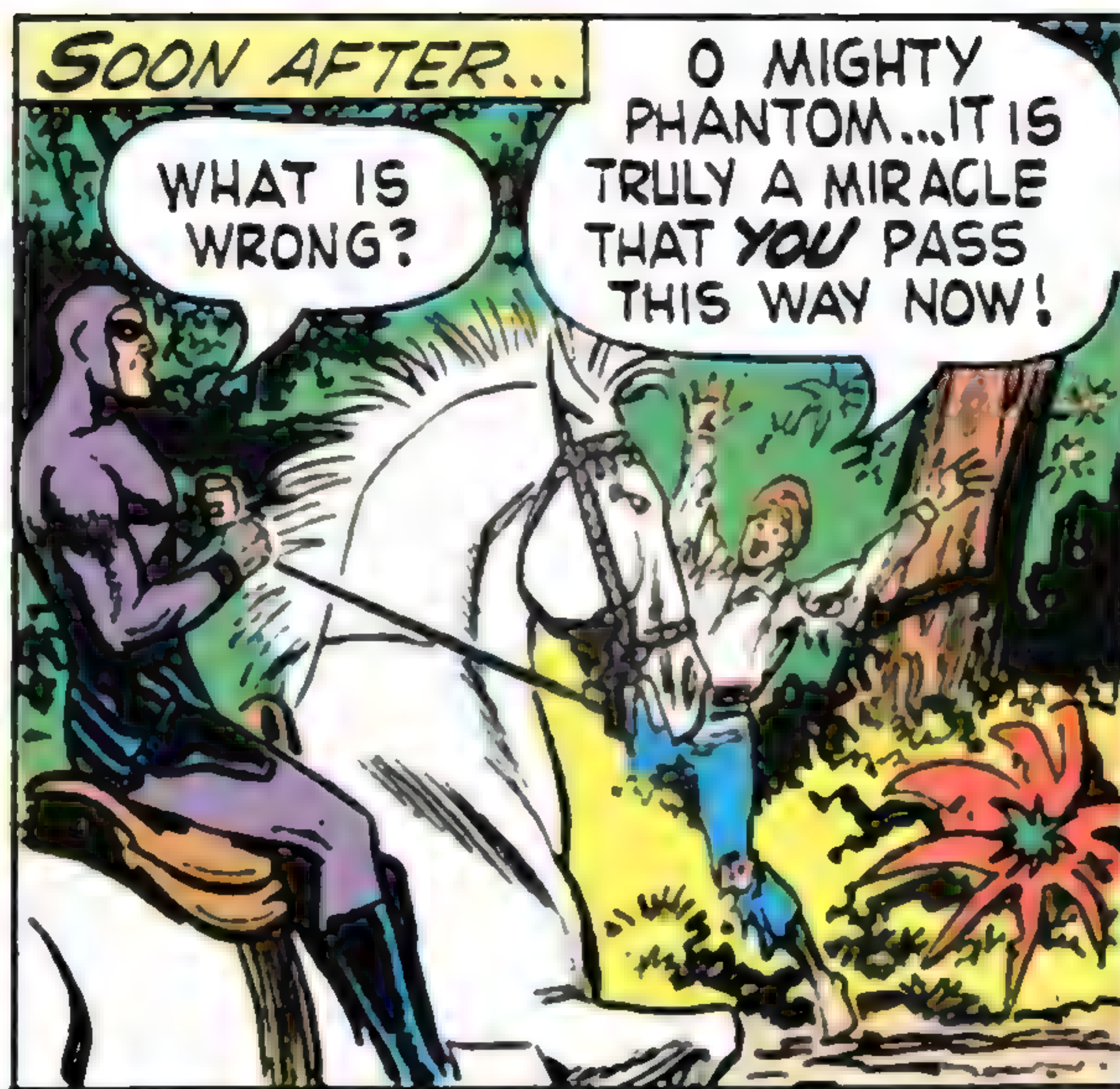
TAKE CARE, PHANTOM! THE ROAD YOU TRAVEL IS FILLED WITH MANY PITFALLS!

I SHALL... TILL WE MEET AGAIN, SHAZA.

LATER...

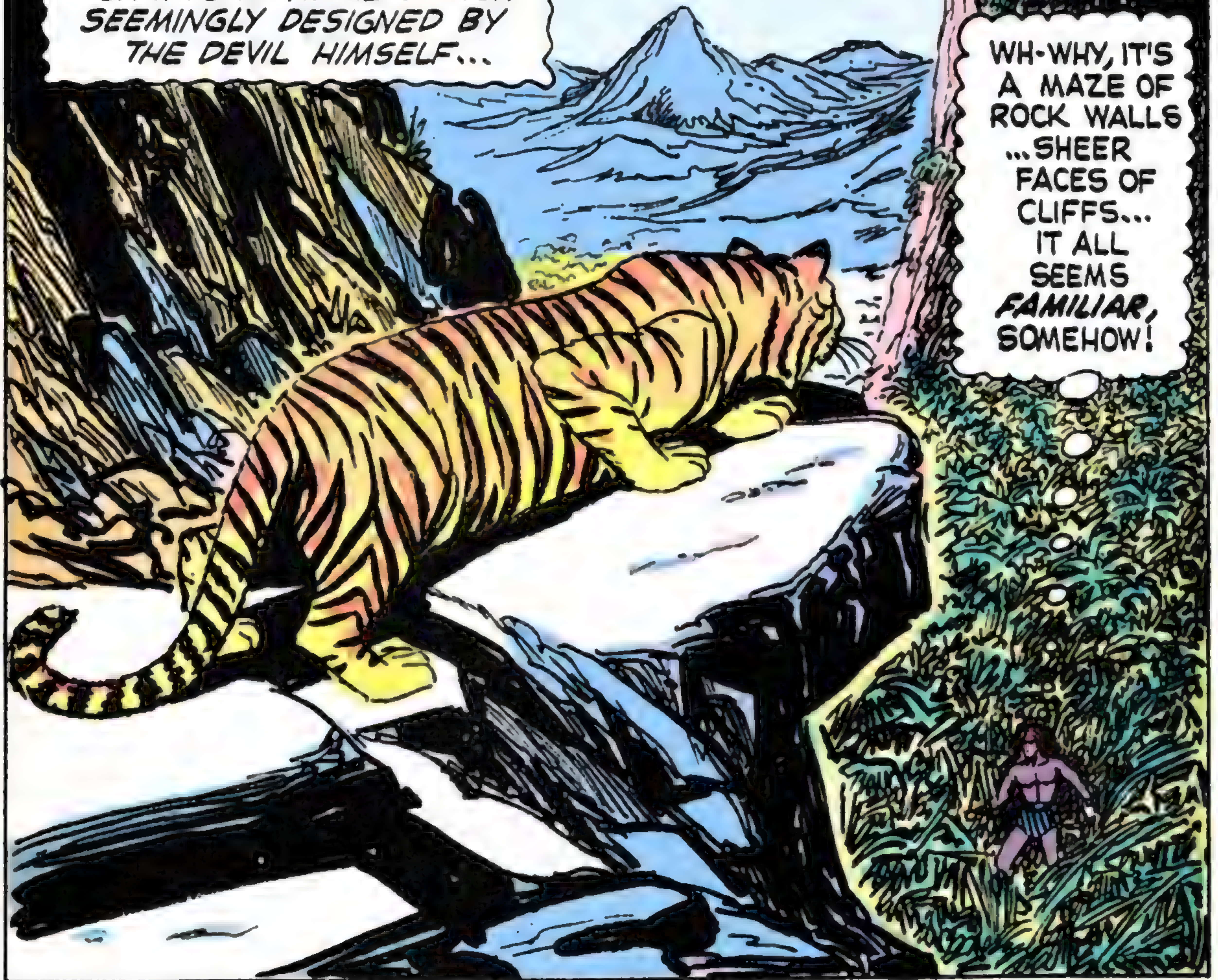
THE PHANTOM... ON THE ROAD TO MY PALACE...

YOU SEE, I DO NOT LIE, PRINCE TARAN! THE PHANTOM IS IN INDIA!

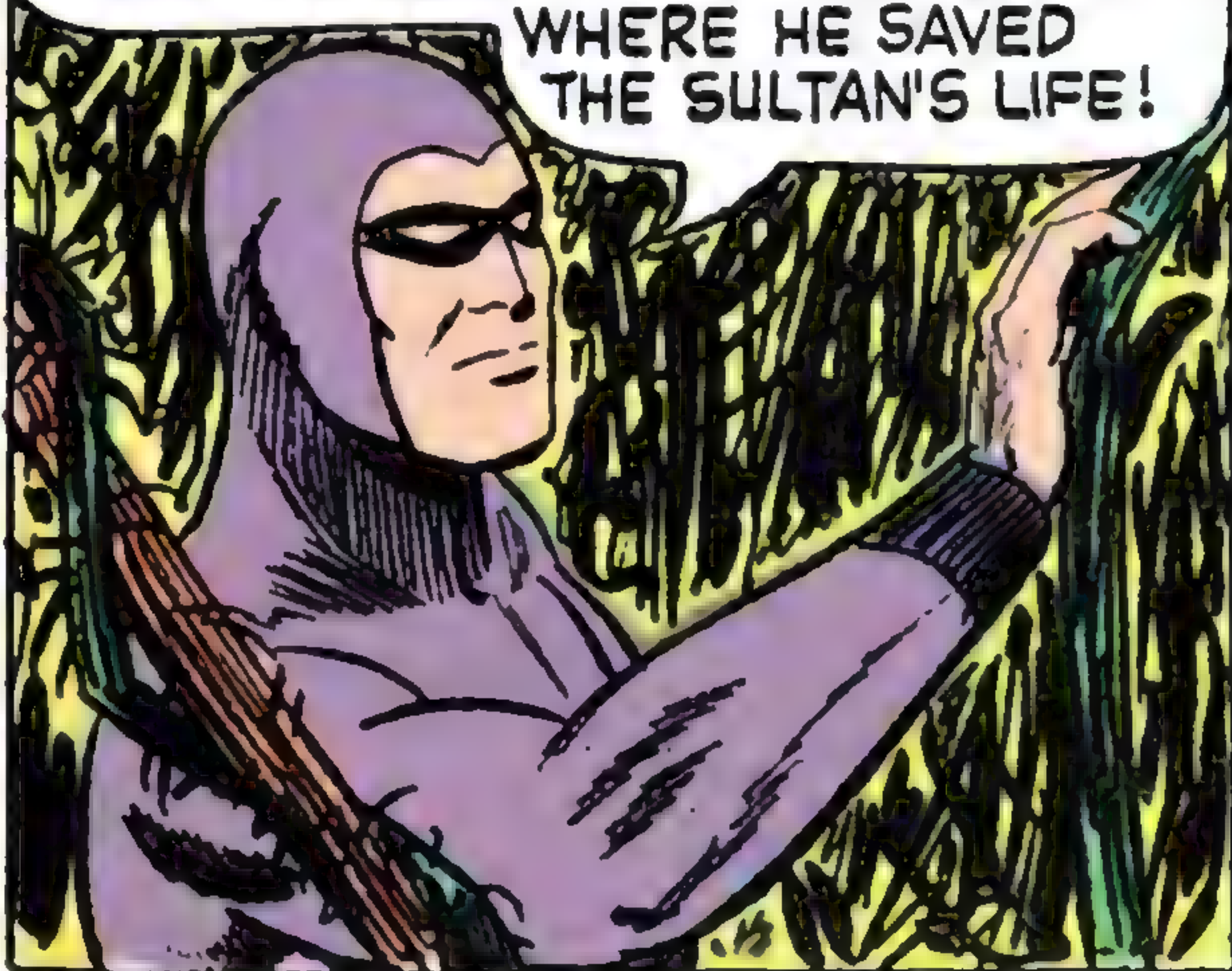


*THE MOUNTAIN MAZE...
A THOUSAND ACRES OF
CONFUSION... A TWISTING
TURNING NATURAL CANYON
SEEMINGLY DESIGNED BY
THE DEVIL HIMSELF...*

WH-WHY, IT'S
A MAZE OF
ROCK WALLS
...SHEER
FACES OF
CLIFFS...
IT ALL
SEEMS
FAMILIAR,
SOMEHOW!



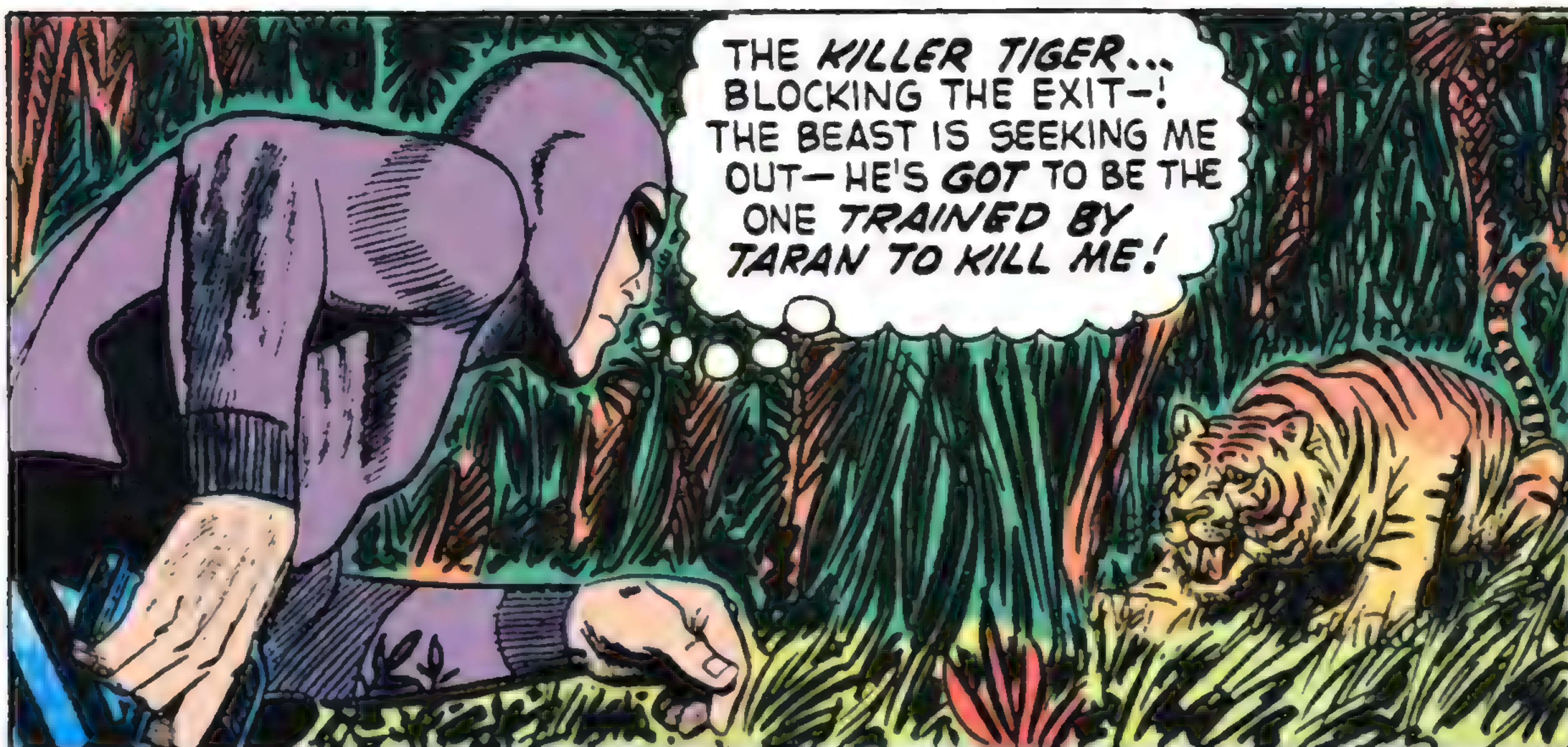
OF COURSE! THE MOUNTAIN MAZE!
THIS WAS PART OF THE STORY DAD
TOLD ME AS A CHILD! *THIS* IS
WHERE HE SAVED
THE SULTAN'S LIFE!



IT WOULD BE
FOOLHARDY TO
TRACK A TIGER
IN THIS DEATH
TRAP! I'LL...

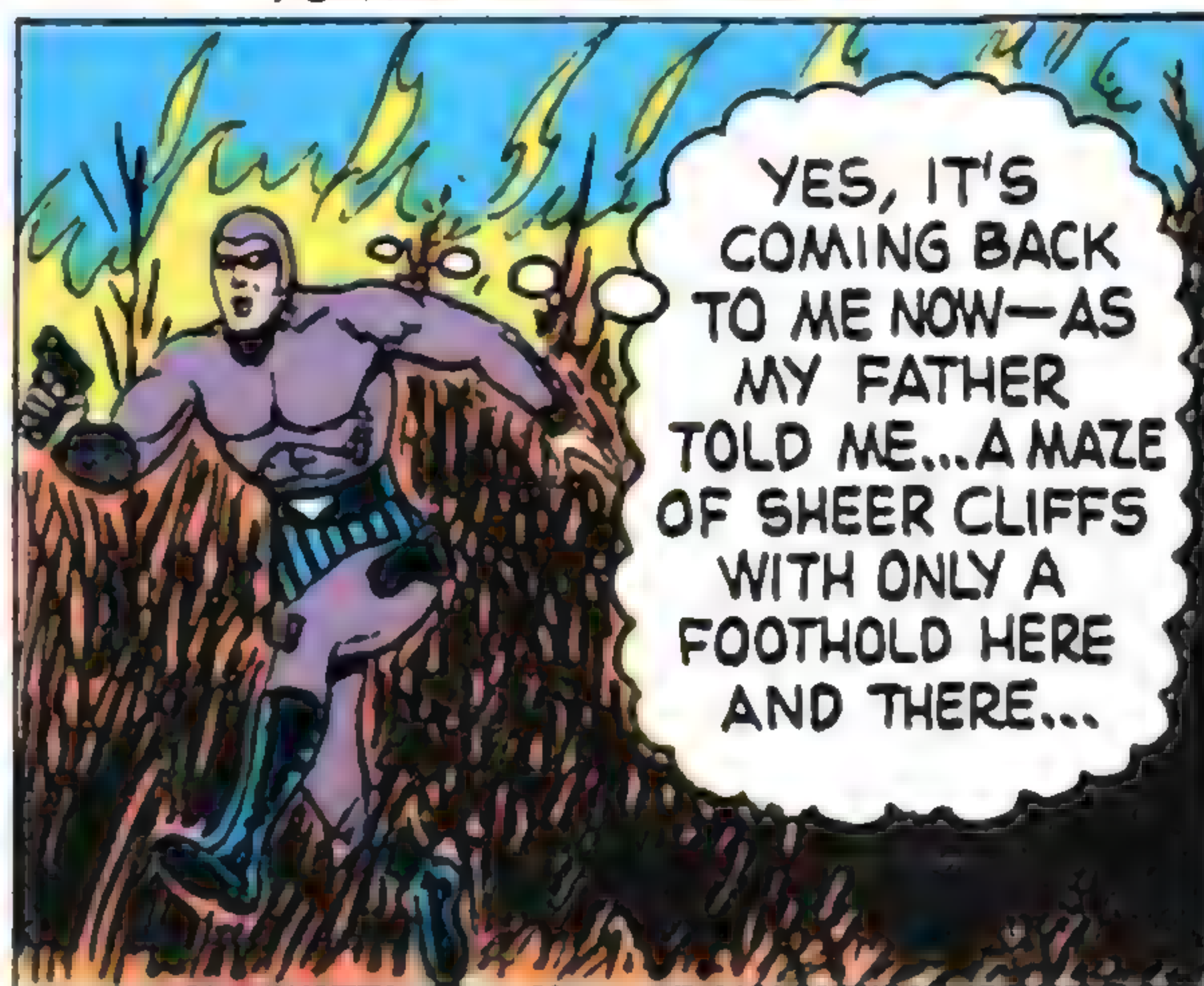
WHA-?



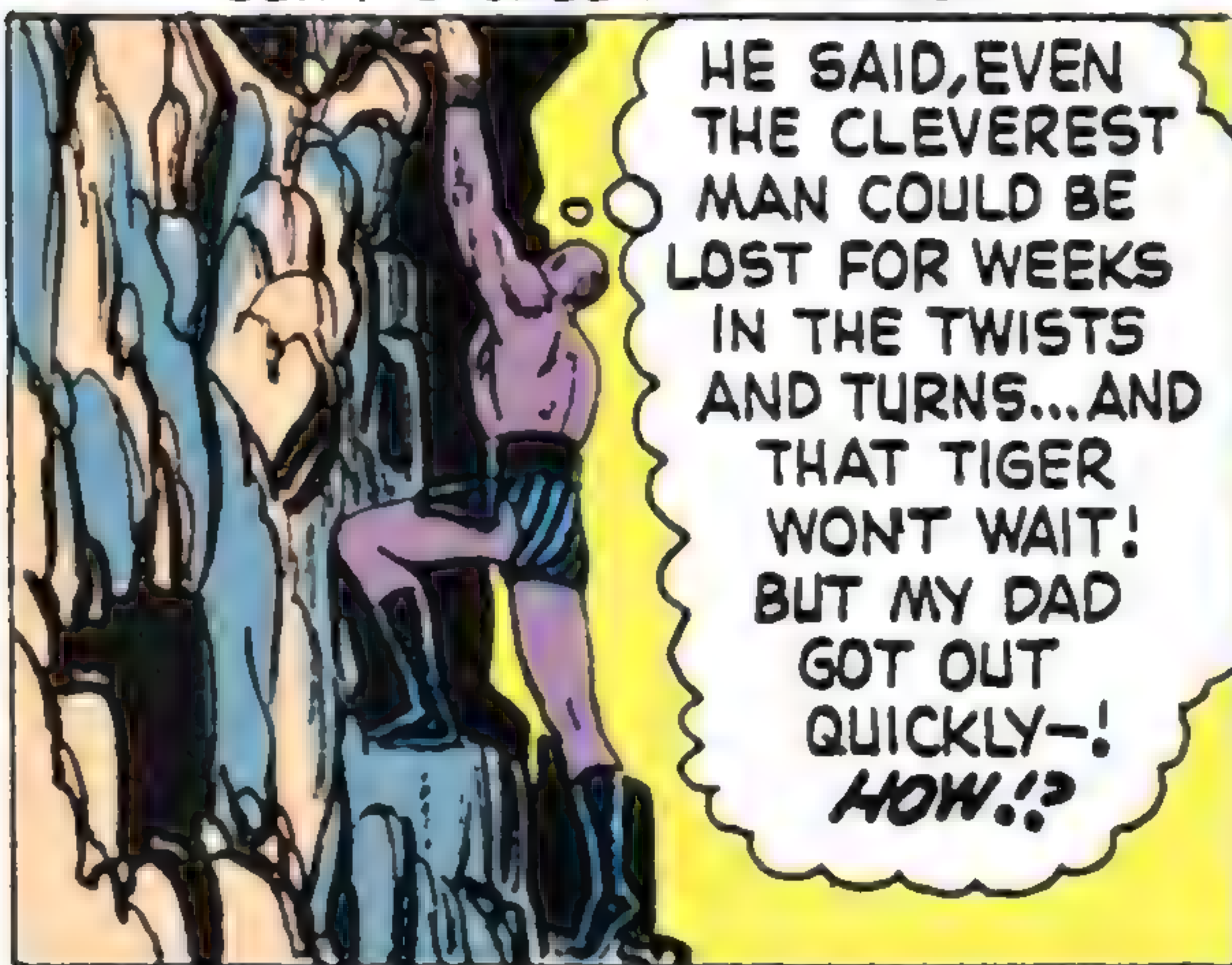


HOLDING THE TIGER OFF WITH GUNFIRE, THE PHANTOM MAKES A DESPERATE MOVE...

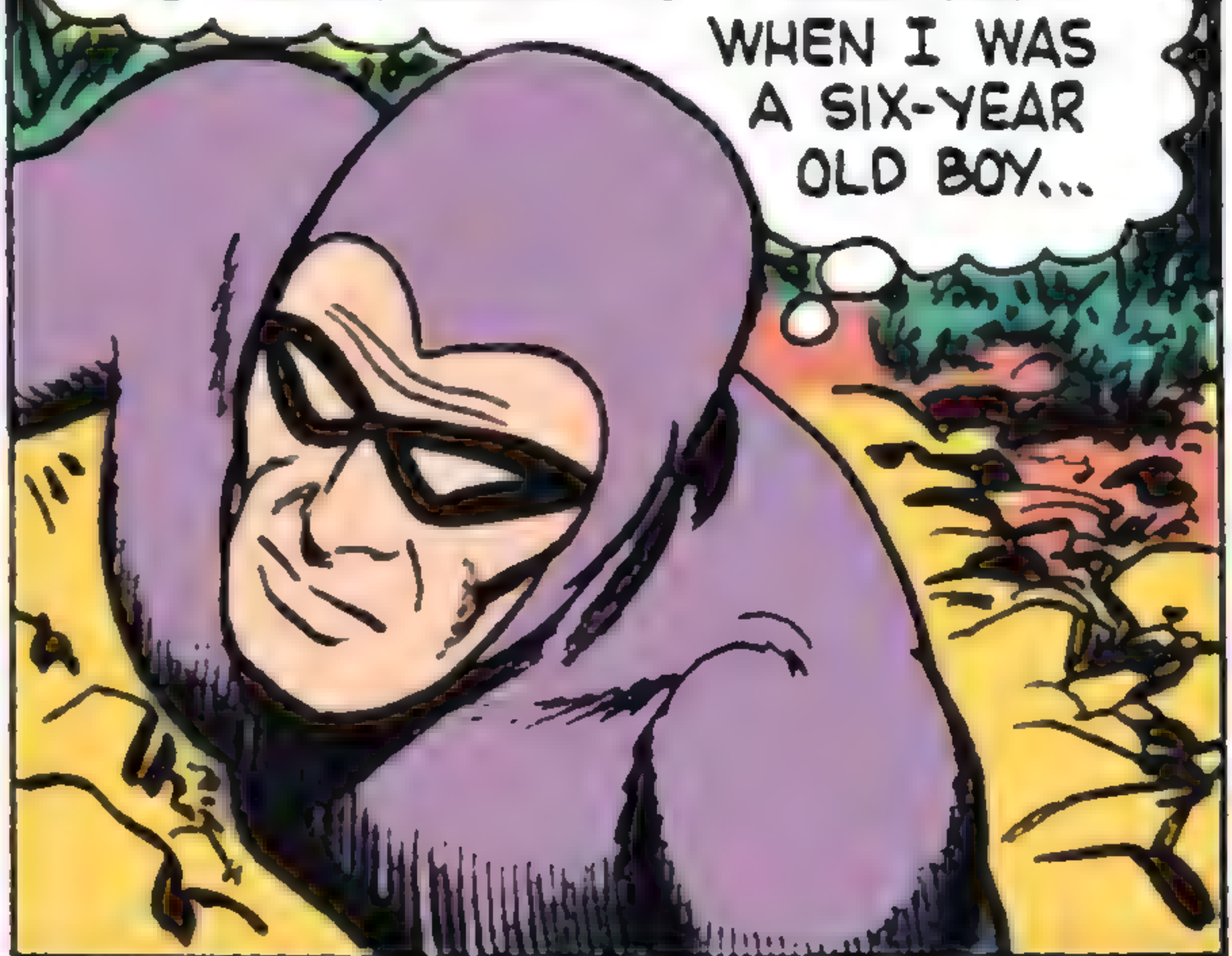
AS THE PHANTOM RACES OFF BEHIND A WALL OF FIRE, HIS MIND GOES BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD...



THE PHANTOM TRIES TO COLLECT HIS THOUGHTS AS HE SCALES ONE OF THE CLIFF'S SHEER SURFACES...



HOW DID HE ESCAPE? HE SAVED THE SULTAN *AND* HIMSELF... GOT TO THINK BACK TO THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS A SIX-YEAR OLD BOY...



THE PHANTOM'S MIND GOES BACK IN TIME... TO THE DAYS OF HIS CHILDHOOD AND HIS FATHER...



...BUT WE WERE IN LUCK, FOR THE SULTAN HAD A SPECIAL DIAMOND-STUDDED DAGGER...



...INSIDE THE HANDLE WAS A SECRET COMPASS WITH ITS TINY MAGNETIZED NEEDLE...



SUDDENLY, THE PHANTOM RECALLS...

**THAT'S IT!
THE SECRET
INVOLVED THE
COMPASS! HOW
DID IT WORK
AGAIN...**

**OF COURSE!
BUT FIRST,
I'D BETTER
GET RID OF
THAT TIGER!**



**WORKING QUICKLY, HE FORCES THE
DAGGER POINT INTO A CREVICE...
LONG MINUTES LATER THE AGED
STONE BEGINS TO CRUMBLE...**

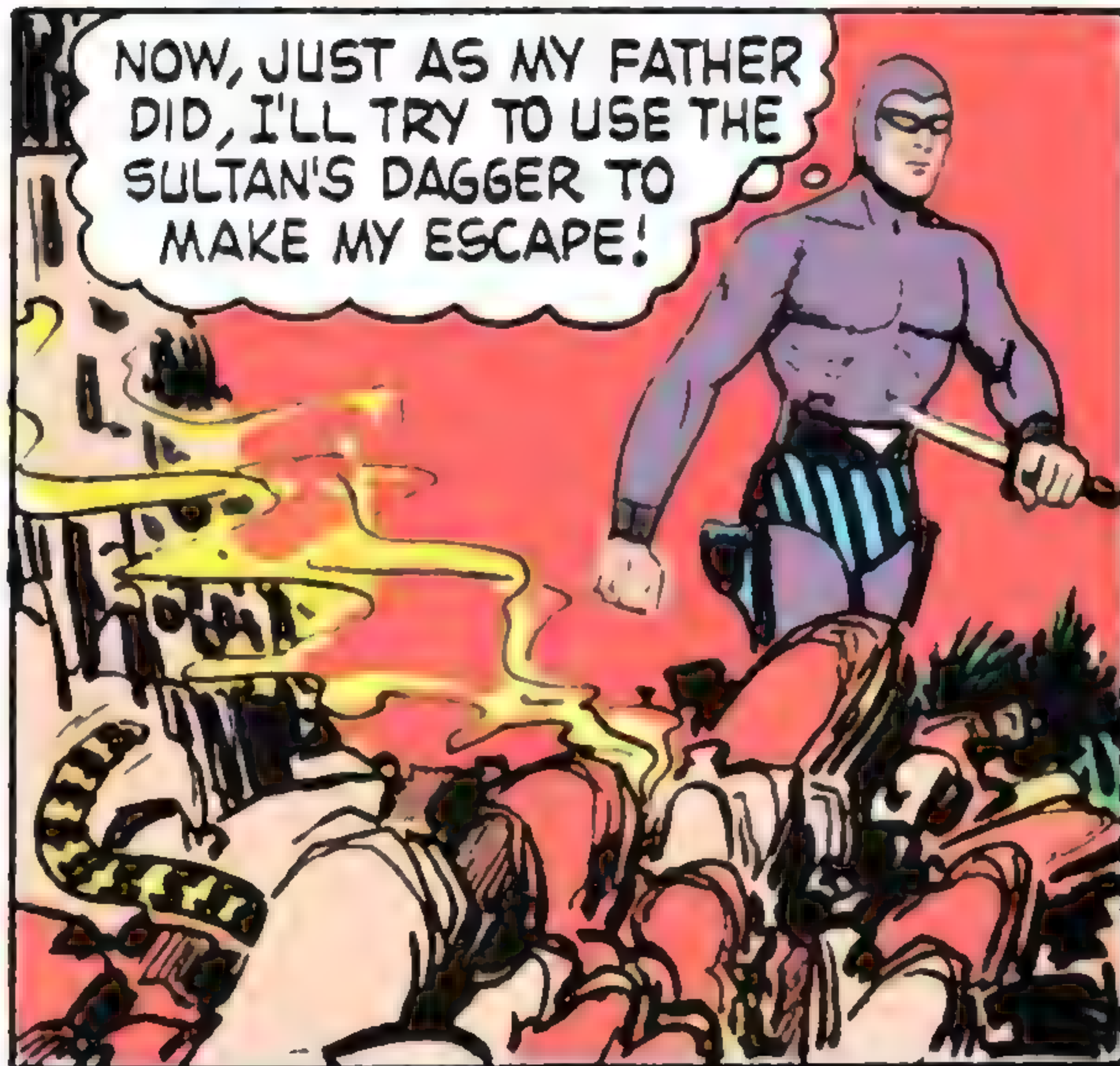
**THERE! JUST
ONE MORE
OUGHT TO DO IT!**



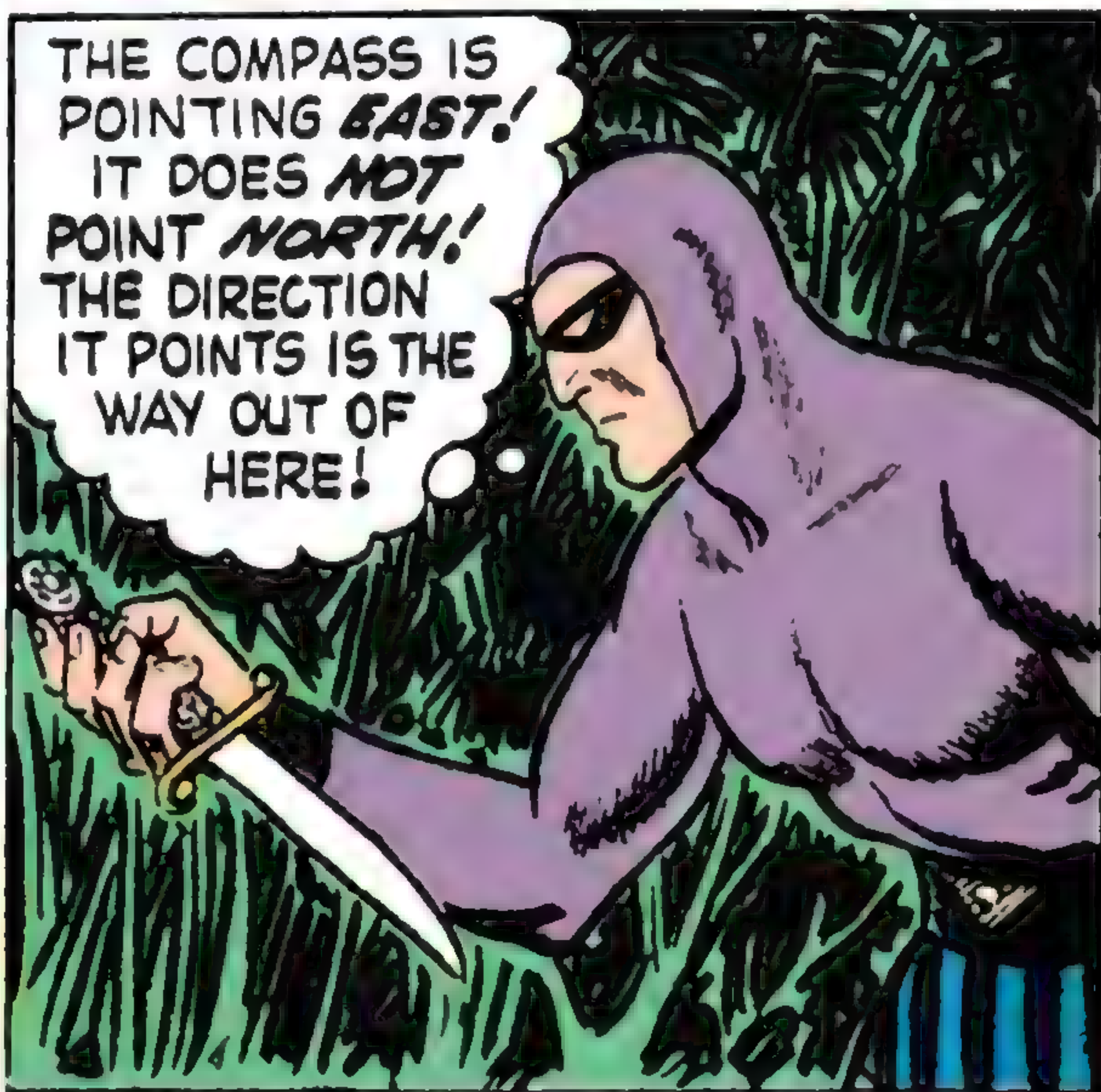
**YOU ARE THE
ONE DOOMED BY
THE MOUNTAIN
MAZE NOW,
TERROR TIGER!**



**NOW, JUST AS MY FATHER
DID, I'LL TRY TO USE THE
SULTAN'S DAGGER TO
MAKE MY ESCAPE!**



**THE COMPASS IS
POINTING *EAST*!
IT DOES *NOT*
POINT *NORTH*!
THE DIRECTION
IT POINTS IS THE
WAY OUT OF
HERE!**

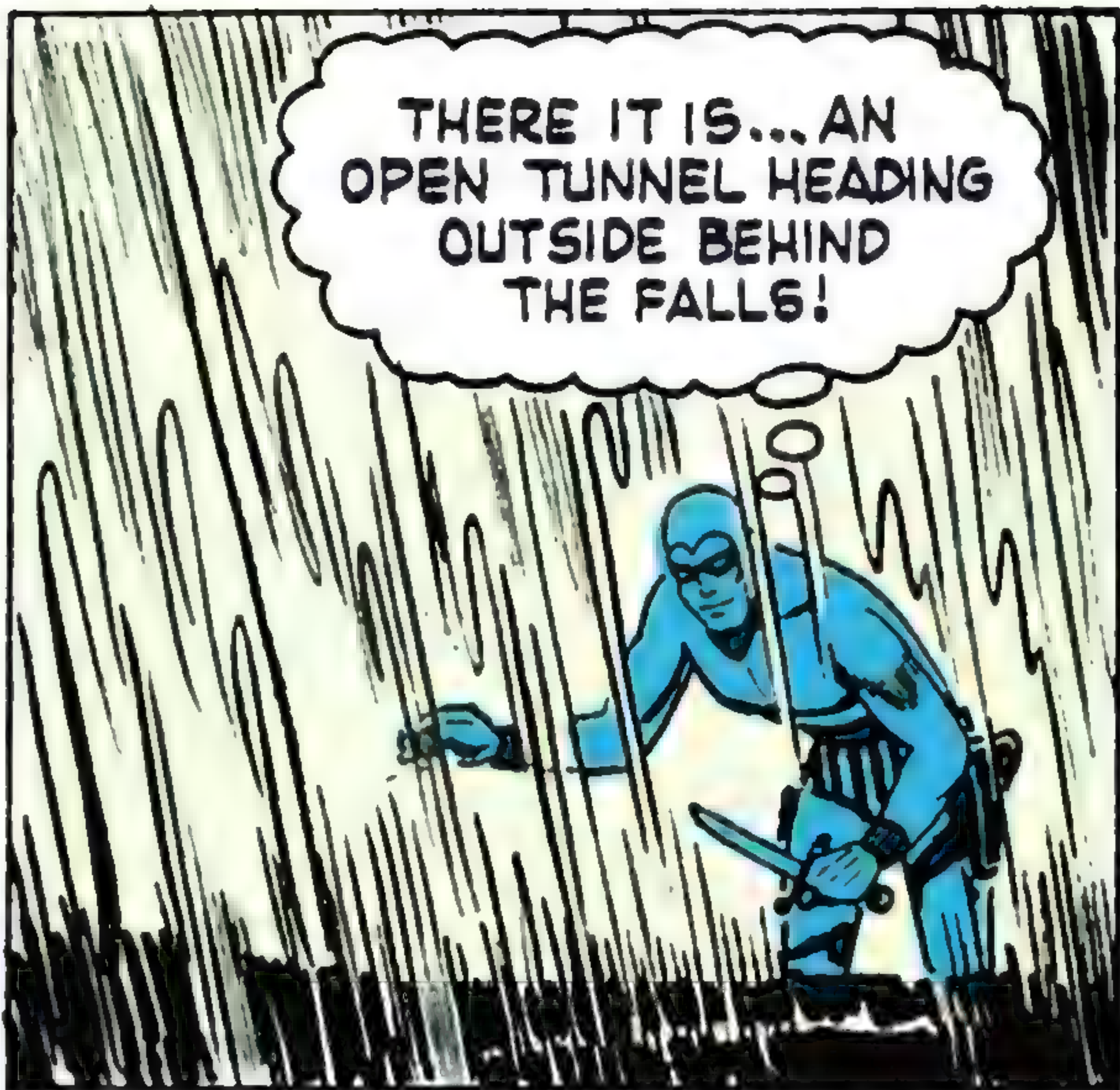


HOURS PASS, AND FINALLY...

WHAT? A DEAD-END!
YES, YES—I REMEMBER
NOW... THE WATERFALL
IS THE WAY TO FREEDOM!



THERE IT IS... AN
OPEN TUNNEL HEADING
OUTSIDE BEHIND
THE FALLS!



LATER, AS THE PHANTOM BIDS
FAREWELL TO SULTAN SHAZA...

THE DAGGER BOTH OUR PARENTS
TREASURED GUIDED YOU OUT OF
THE DREADED MAZE! B-BUT HOW?

SIMPLE,
REALLY...



OUR FATHERS KNEW THE MAGNETIZED
COMPASS NEEDLE WAS DRAWN TO THE
HEAVY IRON ORE DEPOSITS BEHIND THE
WATERFALL INSTEAD OF TRUE NORTH!
THE ONE MEANS
OF ESCAPE!



IT IS NO WONDER
OUR FATHERS WERE
SUCH FRIENDS —
WITH THE DAGGER,
YOUR FATHER
SAVED BOTH
THEIR LIVES!

ALTHOUGH I
WILL HAVE THE
DAGGER, IT WILL
ALWAYS BELONG
TO BOTH OF US!



A LONG-LOST SECRET FORTRESS.
A BOILING VOLCANO...
THE RESTLESS GHOST OF
AN ANGRY WITCH DOCTOR...
**DON'T MISS... THE
TERROR OF MAGIC
MOUNTAIN...**
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...
THE PHANTOM
ON SALE... MARCH 7TH



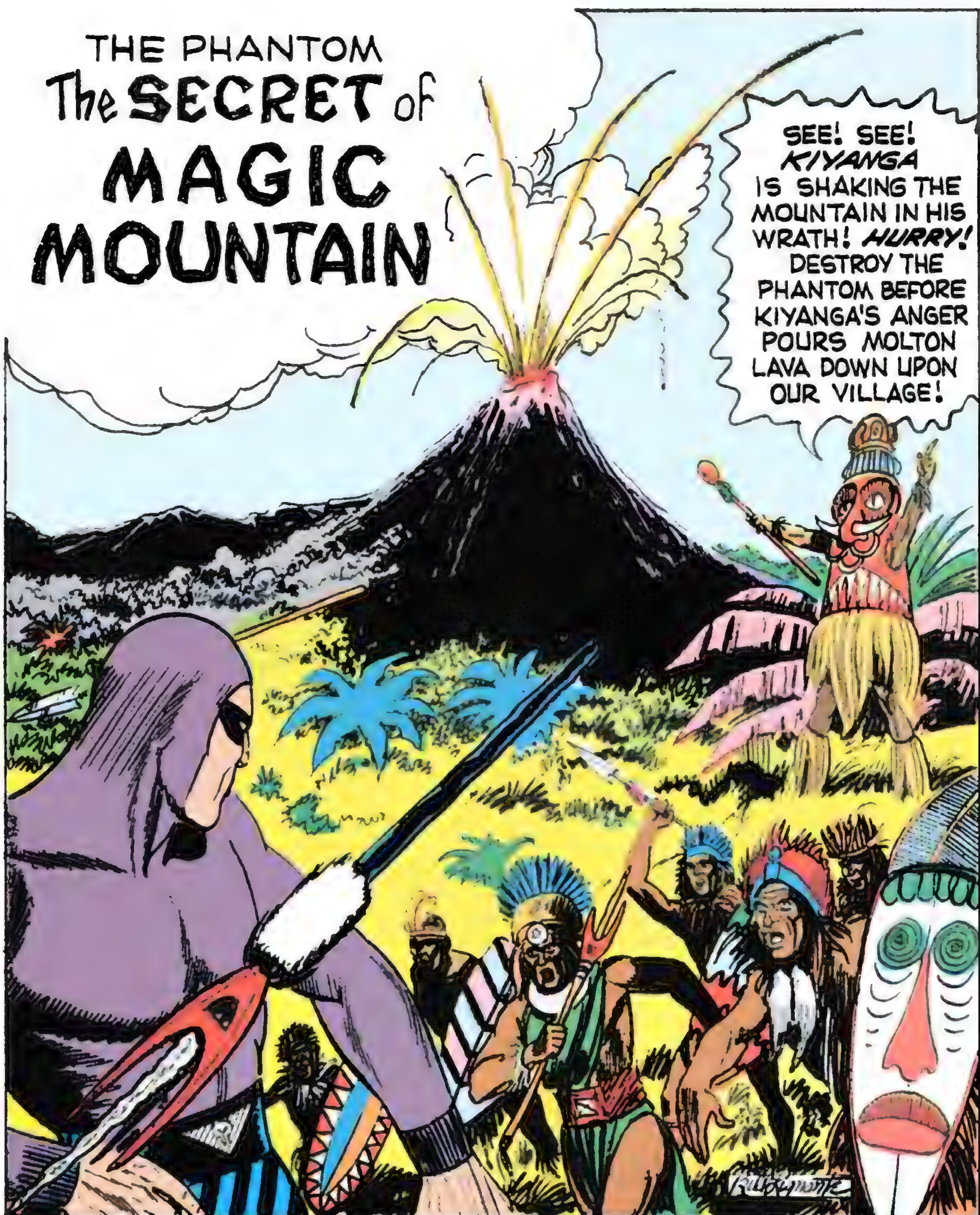
Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM

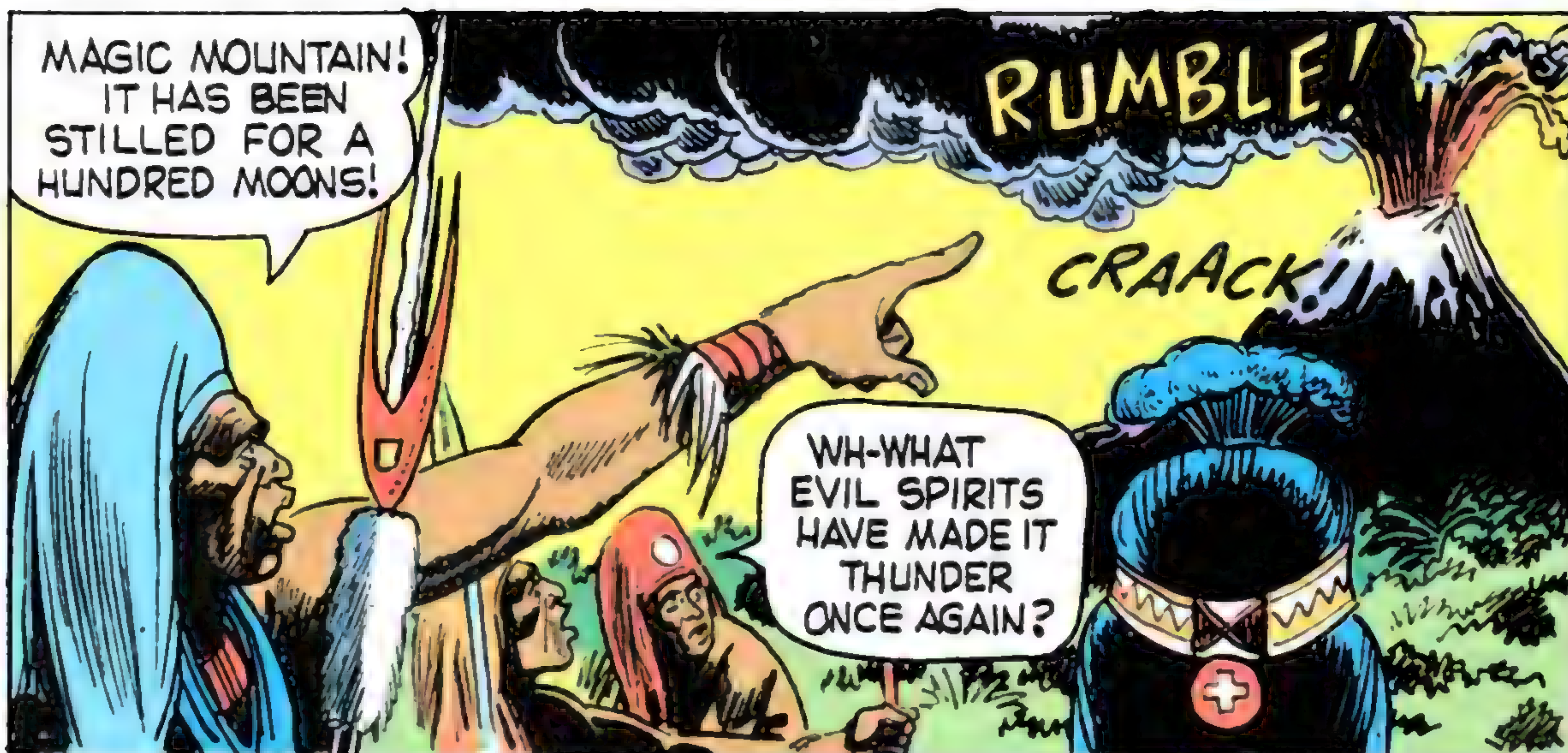


THE PHANTOM The SECRET of MAGIC MOUNTAIN

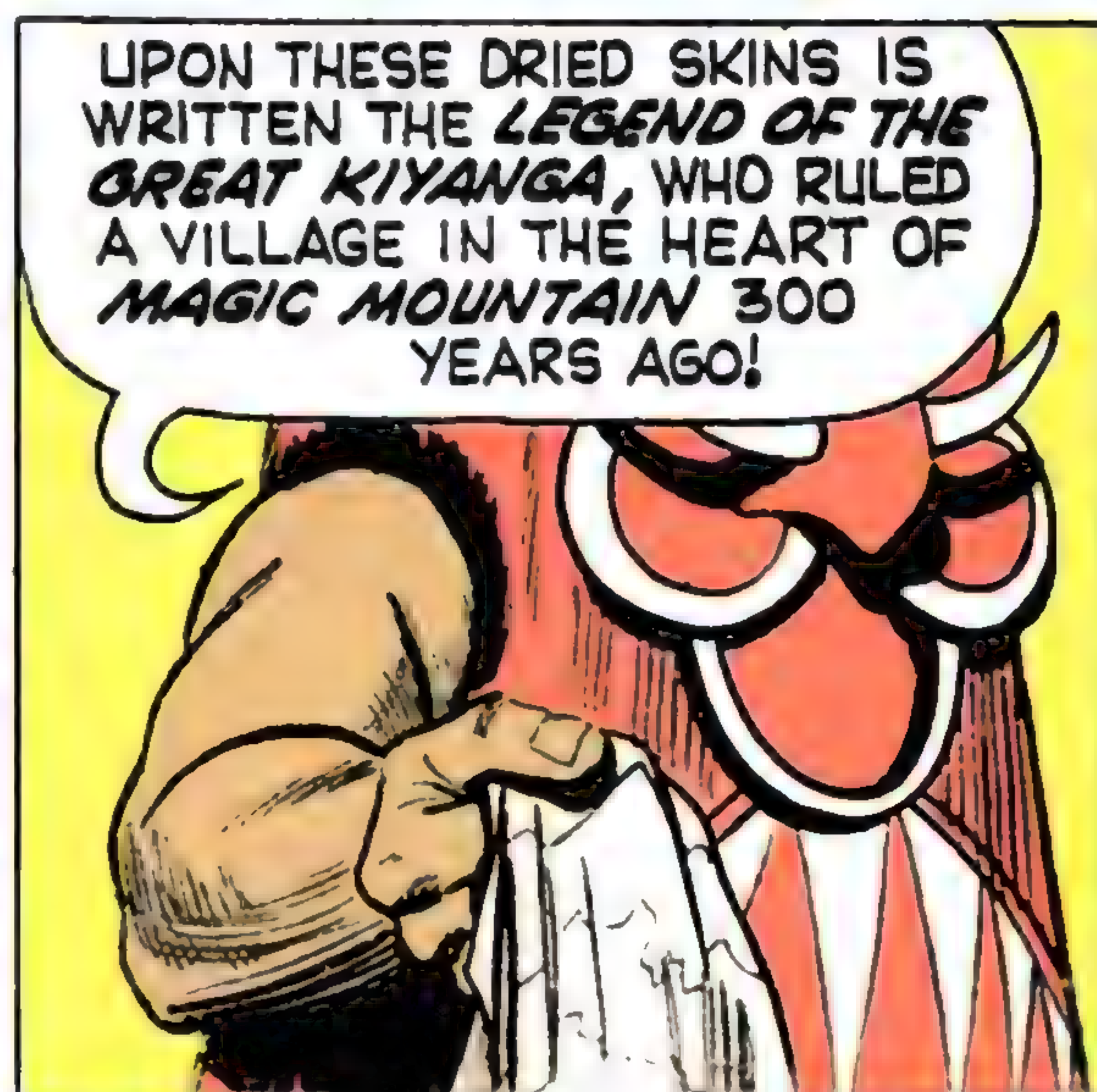
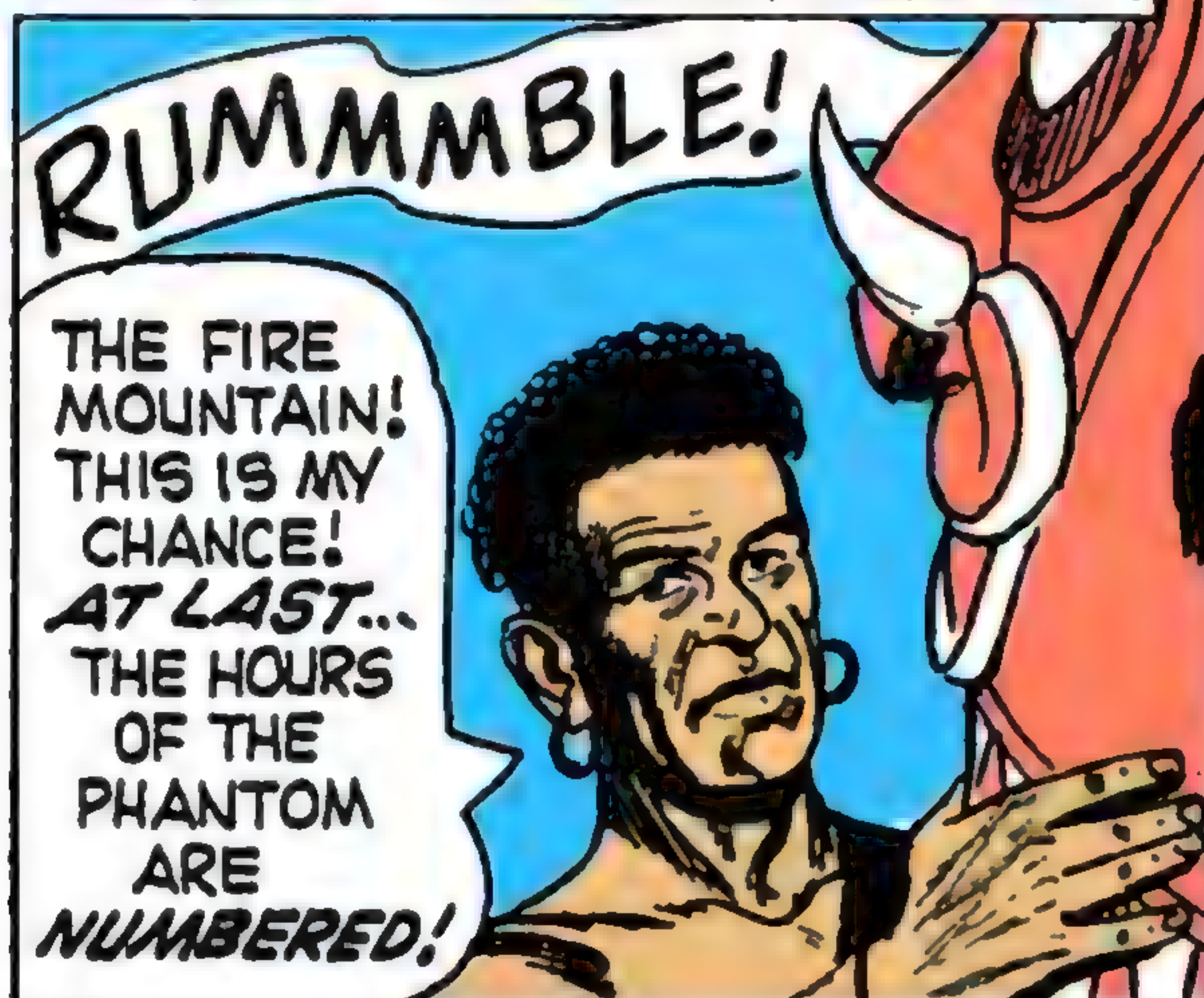
SEE! SEE!
KIYANGA
IS SHAKING THE
MOUNTAIN IN HIS
WRATH! **HURRY!**
DESTROY THE
PHANTOM BEFORE
KIYANGA'S ANGER
POURS MOLTON
LAVA DOWN UPON
OUR VILLAGE!



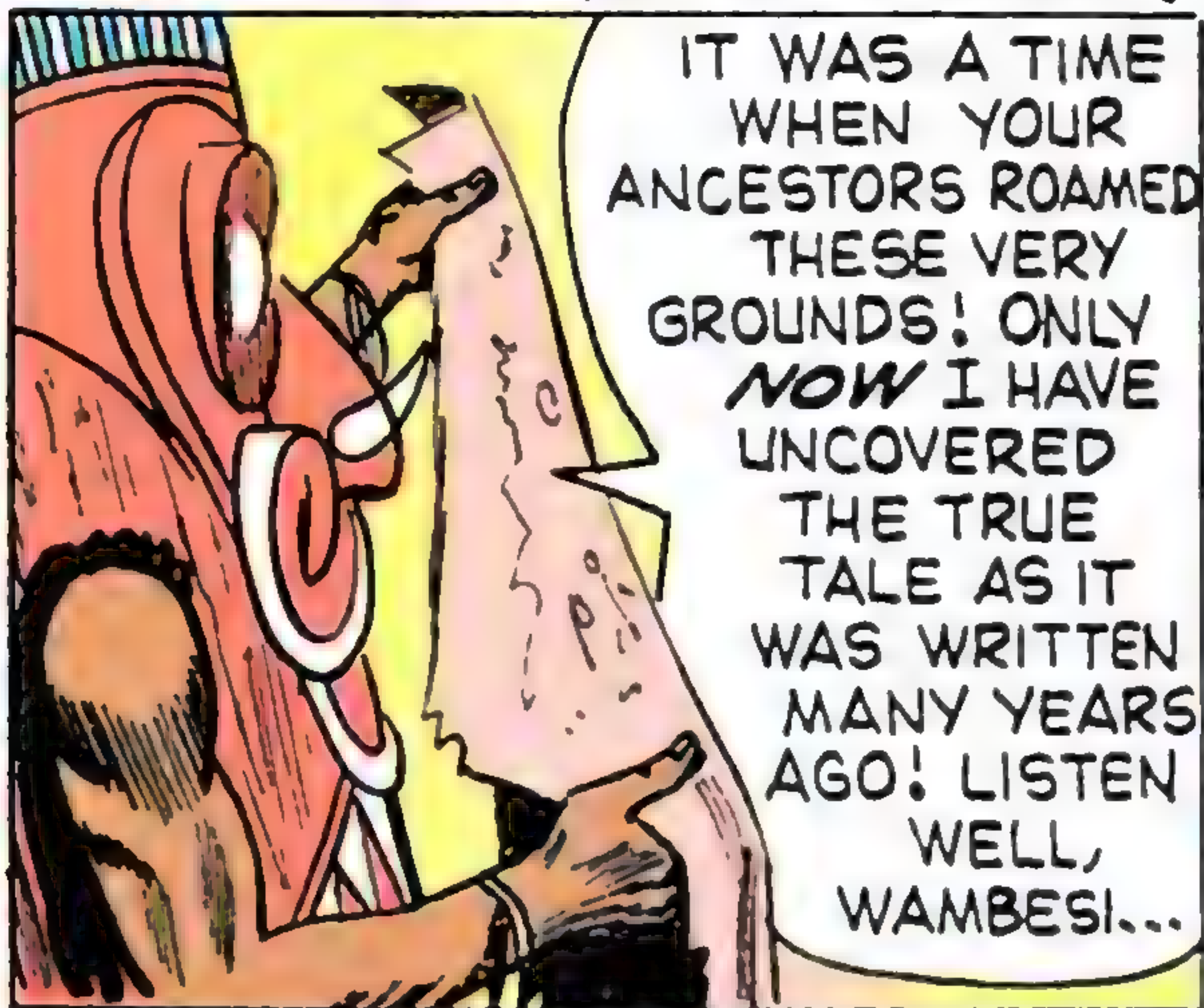
THE MOUNTAIN TREMBLED AND TULLUCK, THE WAMBESI WITCH DOCTOR, ROARED HAPPILY. THIS WAS HIS GREATEST MOMENT OF ALL... THE DAY HE COULD USE THE SPIRIT OF A LONG-DEAD WITCH DOCTOR TO SMASH THE PHANTOM'S POWER AND CONTROL THE TERRORIZED NATIVES WITH HIS BLACK MAGIC MUMBO JUMBO.



A FEW MILES AWAY, TULUCK, THE
WAMBESI WITCH DOCTOR LISTENS...



THE FRIGHTENED WAMBESI LISTEN
IN AWE AS TULUCK READS...



IT WAS A TIME
WHEN YOUR
ANCESTORS ROAMED
THESE VERY
GROUNDS! ONLY
NOW I HAVE
UNCOVERED
THE TRUE
TALE AS IT
WAS WRITTEN
MANY YEARS
AGO! LISTEN
WELL,
WAMBESI...

"KIYANGA WAS BOTH CHIEF AND
WITCH DOCTOR OF THE WAMBESI...
A LEADER WITH GREAT POWERS
AND MUCH WISDOM..."



TO BE SAFE FROM OUR
ENEMIES WE WILL SET
UP A VILLAGE **DEEP** IN
THE MOUNTAIN'S
HEART!

"KIYANGA LED HIS TRIBE
FAR INTO THE MOUNTAIN..."

DO NOT FEAR... YOU ARE WITH THE
MIGHTY KIYANGA! WE SHALL FIND
A SAFE HOME!



"FINALLY..."

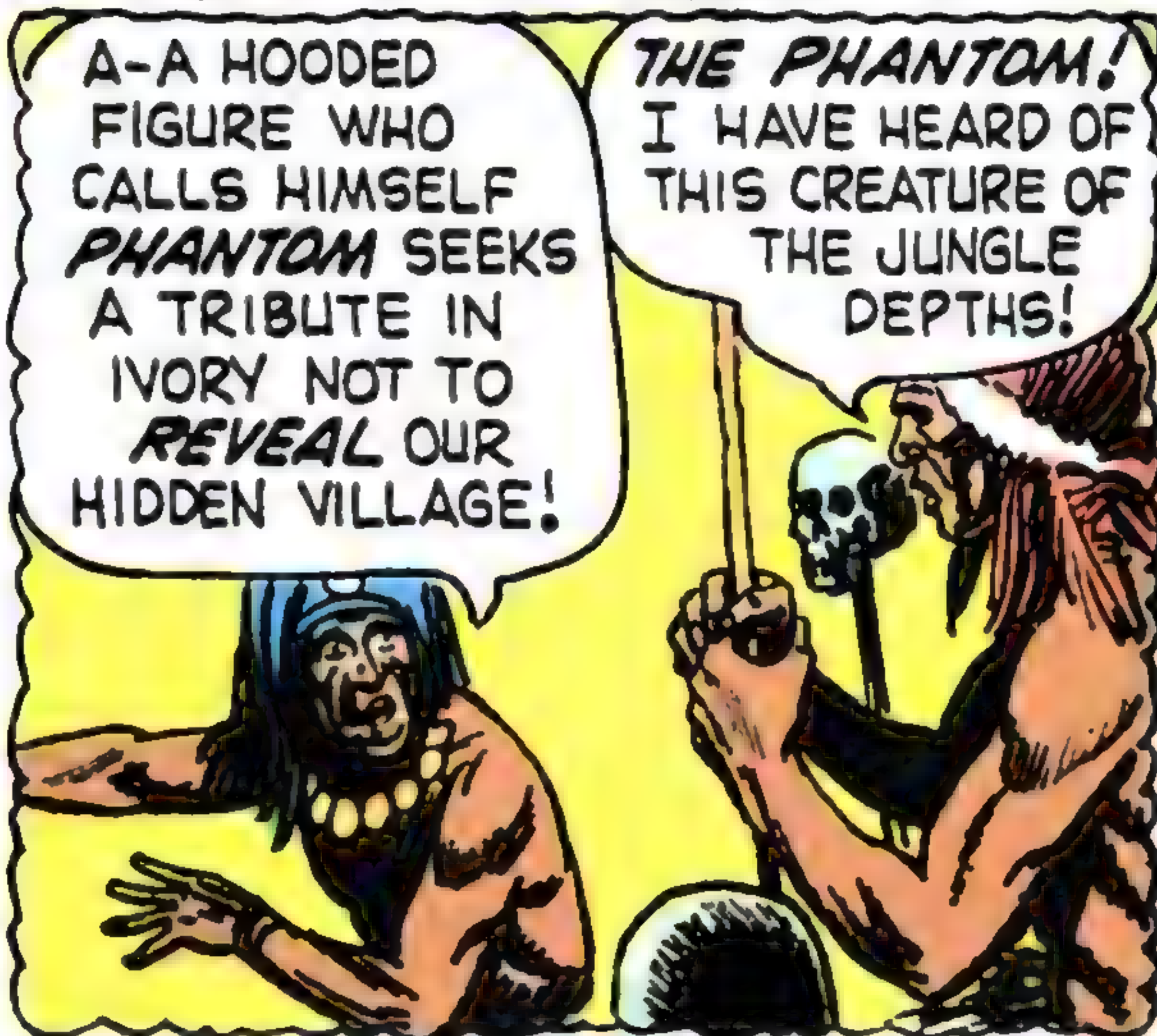


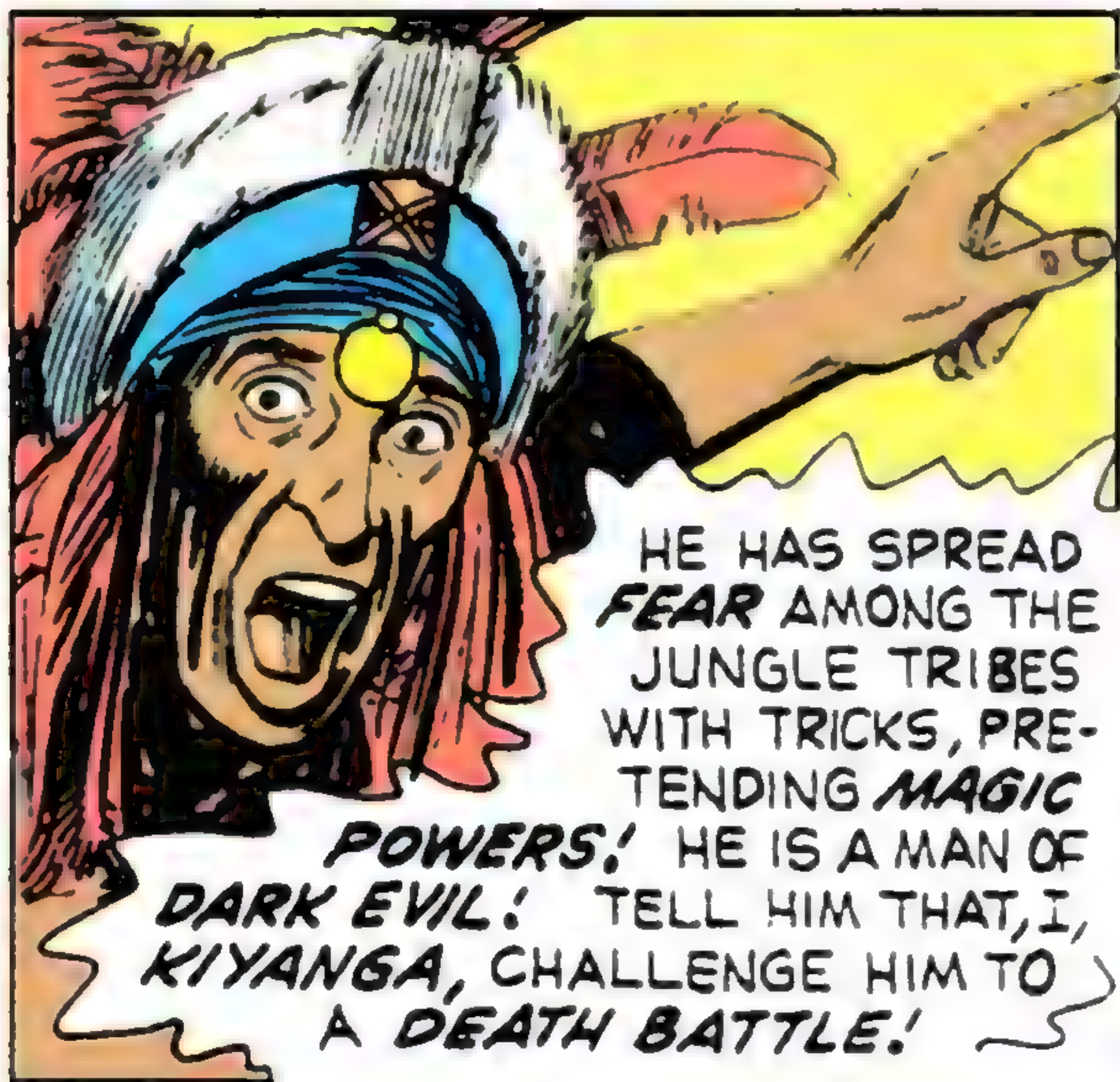
THIS IS WHERE
WE SHALL BUILD
OUR VILLAGE!
NEITHER THE
ANIMALS OF THE
JUNGLE NOR OUR TWO-
FOOTED ENEMIES CAN
HARM US HERE!

"BUT KIYANGA WAS WRONG — ONE
ENEMY STILL PURSUED THEM..."

A-A HOODED
FIGURE WHO
CALLS HIMSELF
PHANTOM SEEKS
A TRIBUTE IN
IVORY NOT TO
REVEAL OUR
HIDDEN VILLAGE!

THE PHANTOM!
I HAVE HEARD OF
THIS CREATURE OF
THE JUNGLE
DEPTHS!





HE HAS SPREAD **FEAR** AMONG THE JUNGLE TRIBES WITH TRICKS, PRE-TENDING **MAGIC POWERS!** HE IS A MAN OF **DARK EVIL!** TELL HIM THAT, I, **KIYANGA**, CHALLENGE HIM TO A **DEATH BATTLE!**

"SO IT WAS THAT PHANTOM EVIL MET THE MAGIC MIGHT OF THE GREAT KIYANGA..."

PREPARE TO DIE, KIYANGA! THE PHANTOM IS ALL POWERFUL!

IT IS **YOUR** EVIL THAT WILL BE BURIED HERE THIS DAY, PHANTOM!



"LONG THEY BATTLED WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER...THE SUN ROSE HIGH IN THE HEAVENS...AND FINALLY..."

DOG OF A JACKAL ... YOU EVADE ME LIKE THE SWAMP GNATS!



HAH-HA! THE INVADER WEAKENS... KIYANGA'S POWER IS TOO GREAT FOR HIM! HA-HA!



"AND THE WONDEROUS VILLAGE OF KİYANGA WAS BURIED FOREVER WITHIN THE CRUMBLING MOUNTAIN..."

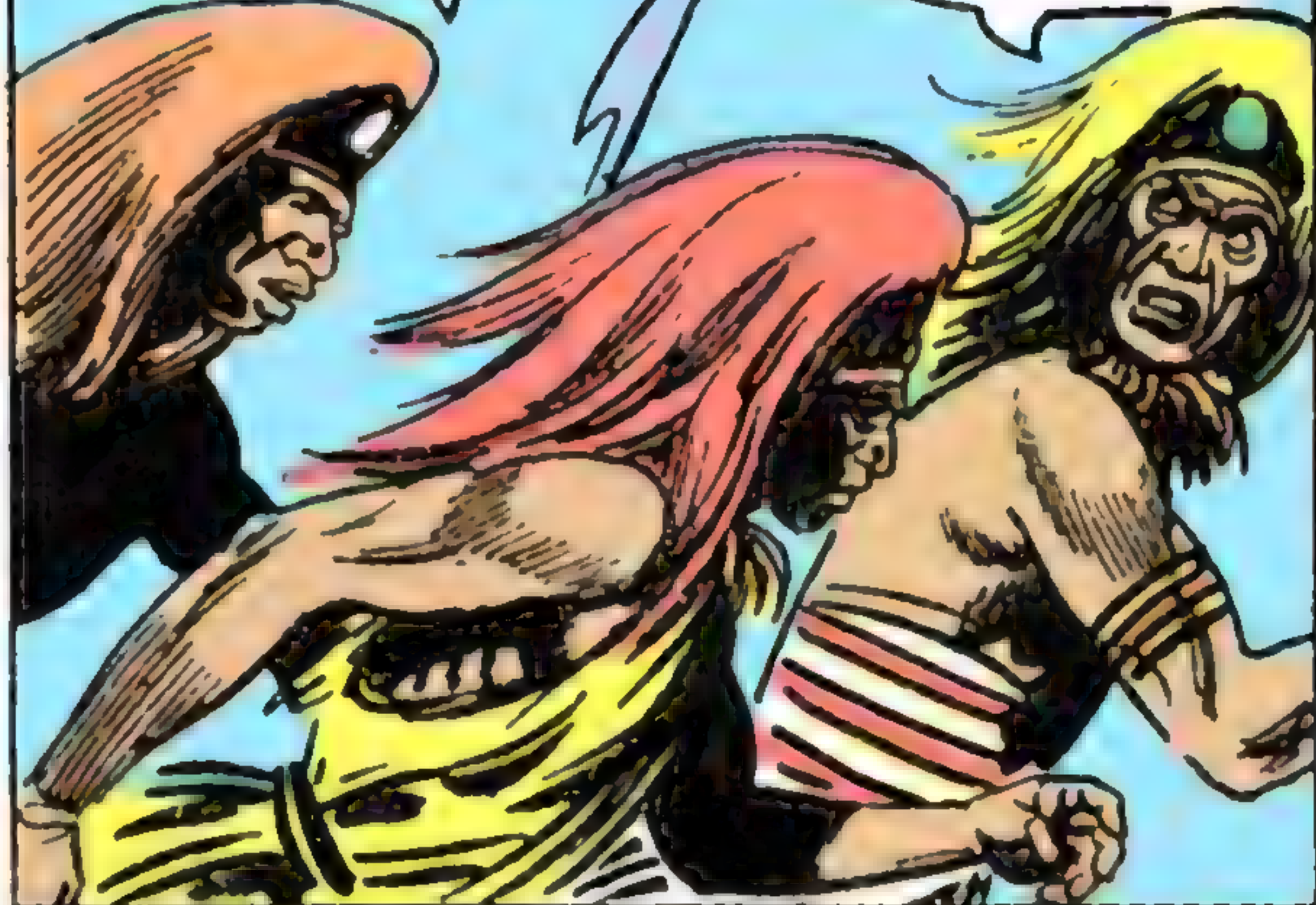


NOW, KİYANGA'S SPIRIT STIRS THE MIGHTY HILL WITH WRATH AGAIN—FOR HE CAN NOT REST IN PEACE KNOWING THAT YOU ARE BEING TRICKED AND BETRAYED BY AN *IMPOSTER* PHANTOM!



TULUCK HAS SPOKEN! *DESTROY* THE PHANTOM PRETENDER!

THE SPIRIT OF KİYANGA MUST HAVE *PEACE!*



MEANWHILE, OUR PHANTOM IS DISTURBED BY THE THUNDERING VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN...



A LONG TIME PASS SINCE MAGIC MOUNTAIN MAKE NOISE, PHANTOM!

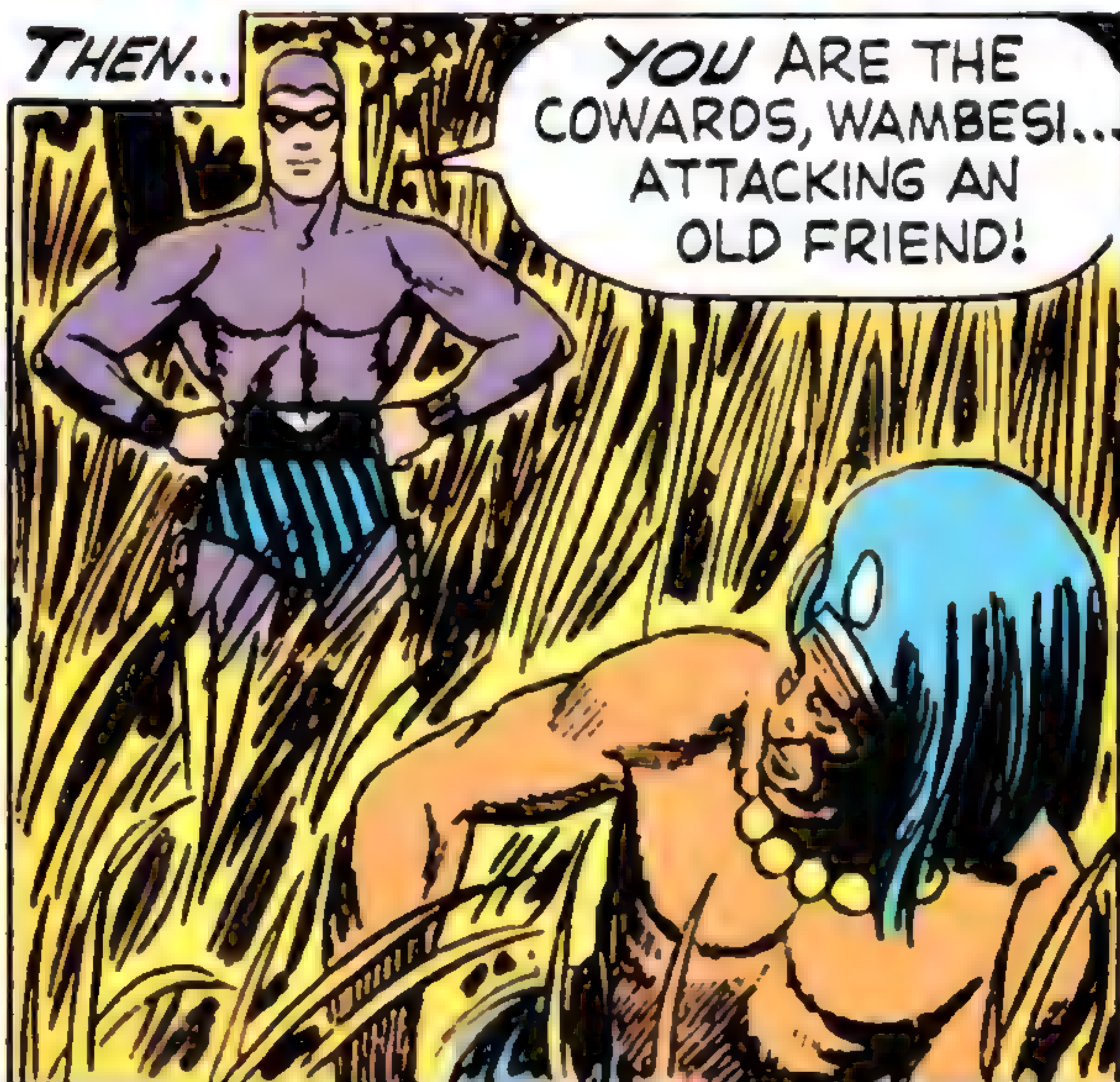
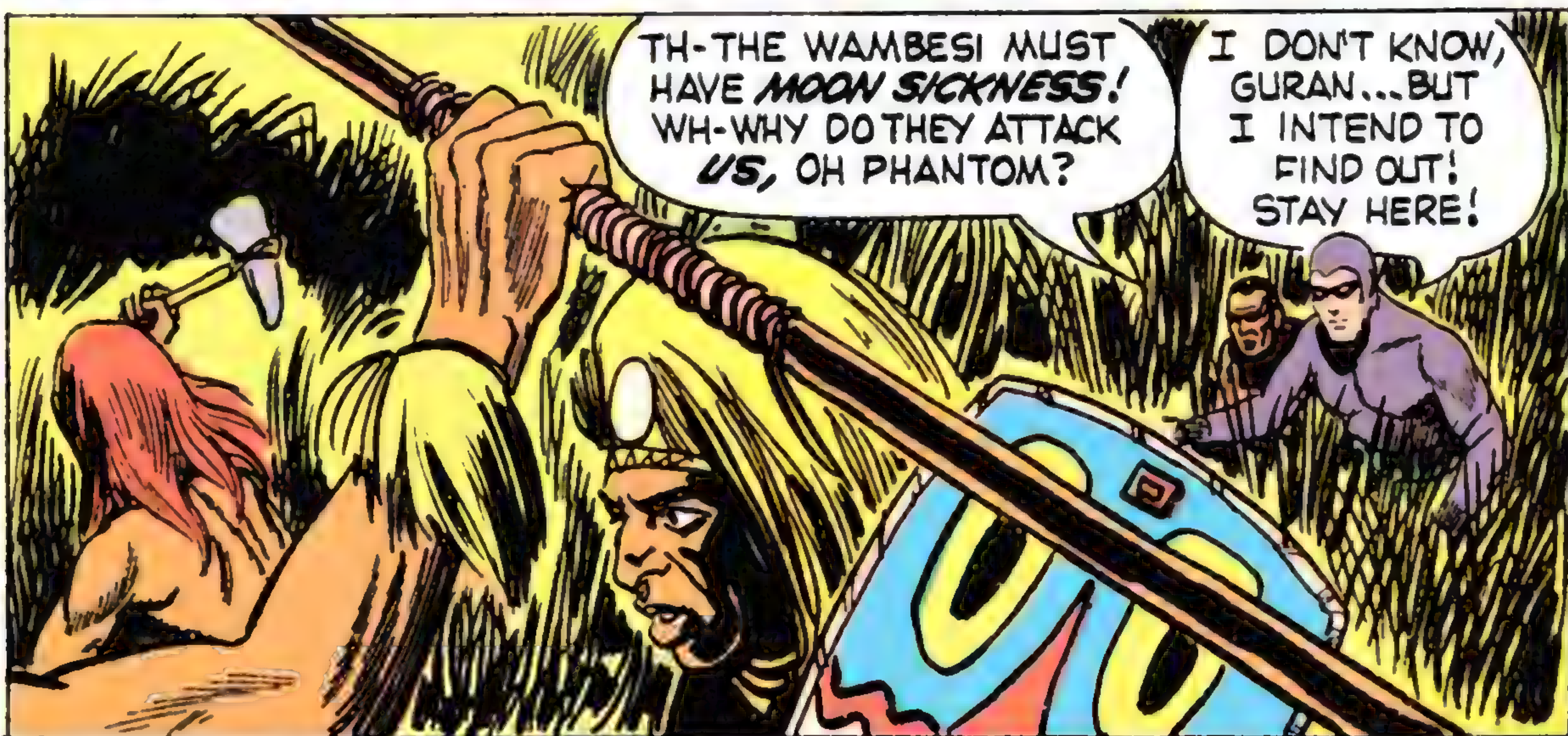
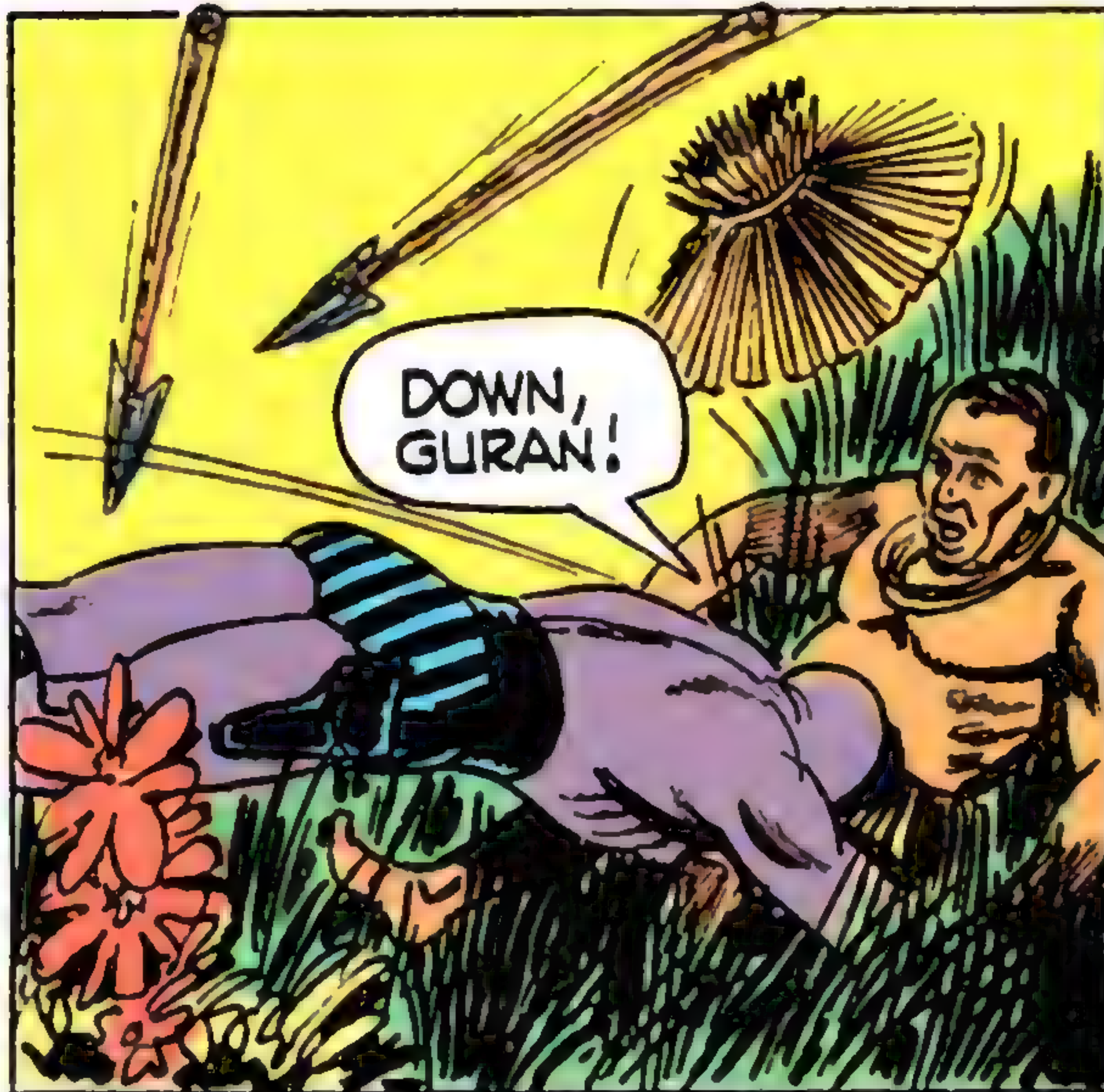
YES, GURAN... LET'S HOPE IT'S JUST A *MINOR* DISTURBANCE!

LOOK, GURAN—OUR WAMBESI FRIENDS!

THE EVIL FALSE PHANTOM!

KILL HIM!





THE PHANTOM
SWINGS INTO
ACTION...

HAVE YOU SOLD
YOUR SERVICES
TO ENEMIES OF
THE PHANTOM?



...OR HAS SOME JUNGLE
SICKNESS TWISTED YOUR
BRAINS?



SPEAK UP!
WHY DO YOU TRY
TO DO THE
IMPOSSIBLE?
WHY DO YOU WISH
TO KILL THE
**GHOST WHO
WALKS?**

Y-YOU ARE A
**FALSE
PHANTOM...**
TULUCK TOLD
US **TRUE**
STORY OF
**MAGIC
MOUNTAIN!**



**REAL PHANTOM DEAD! SOON YOUR
EVIL WILL BE DESTROYED, TULUCK
SAY!**

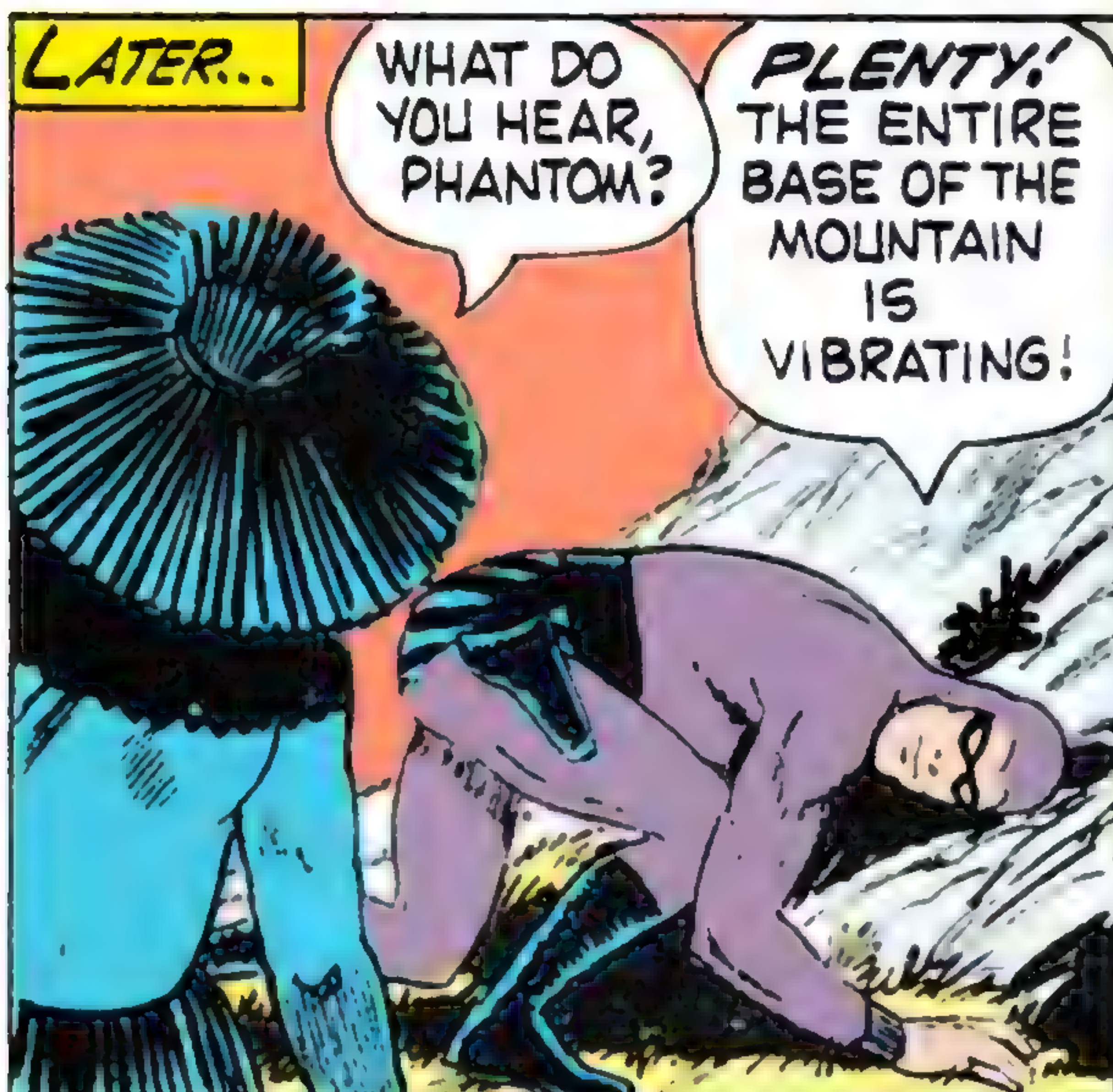
**TULUCK...THE WAMBESI
WITCH DOCTOR...SO HE'S
BEHIND THIS...**

**I'LL FIX
THEM!**

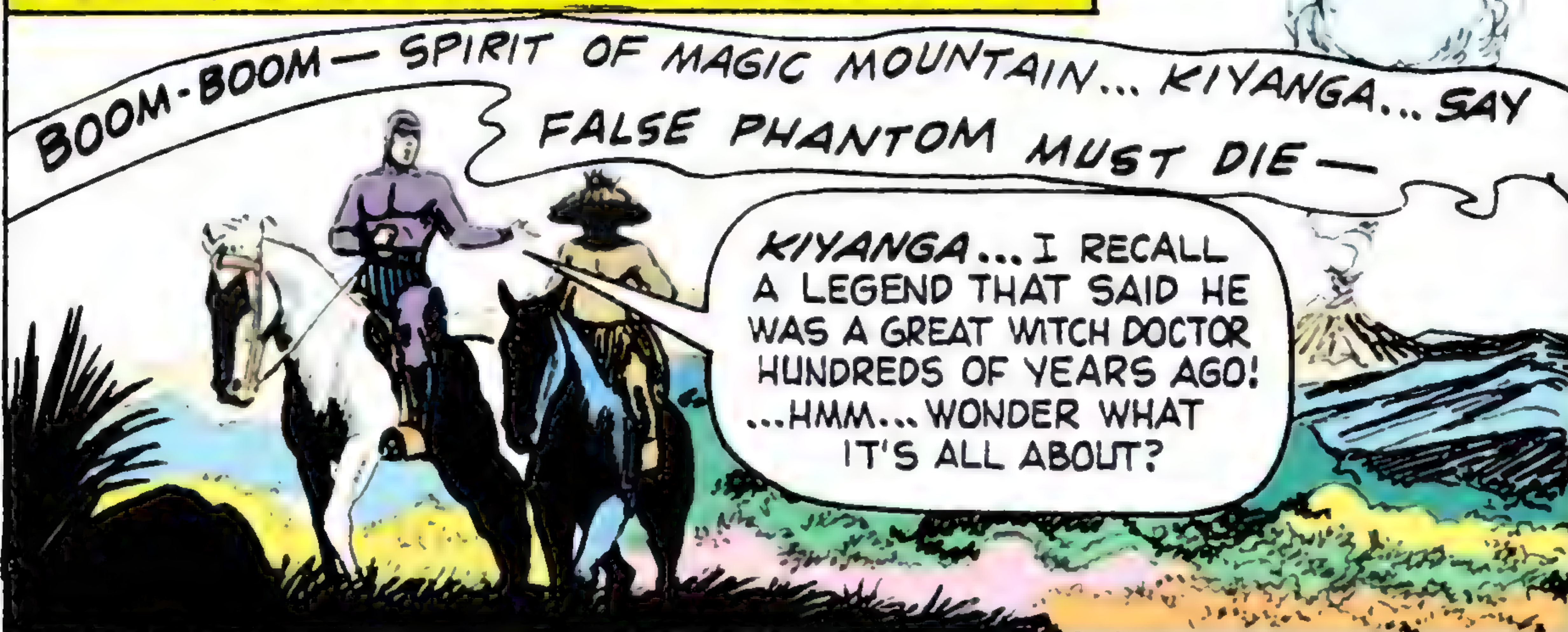


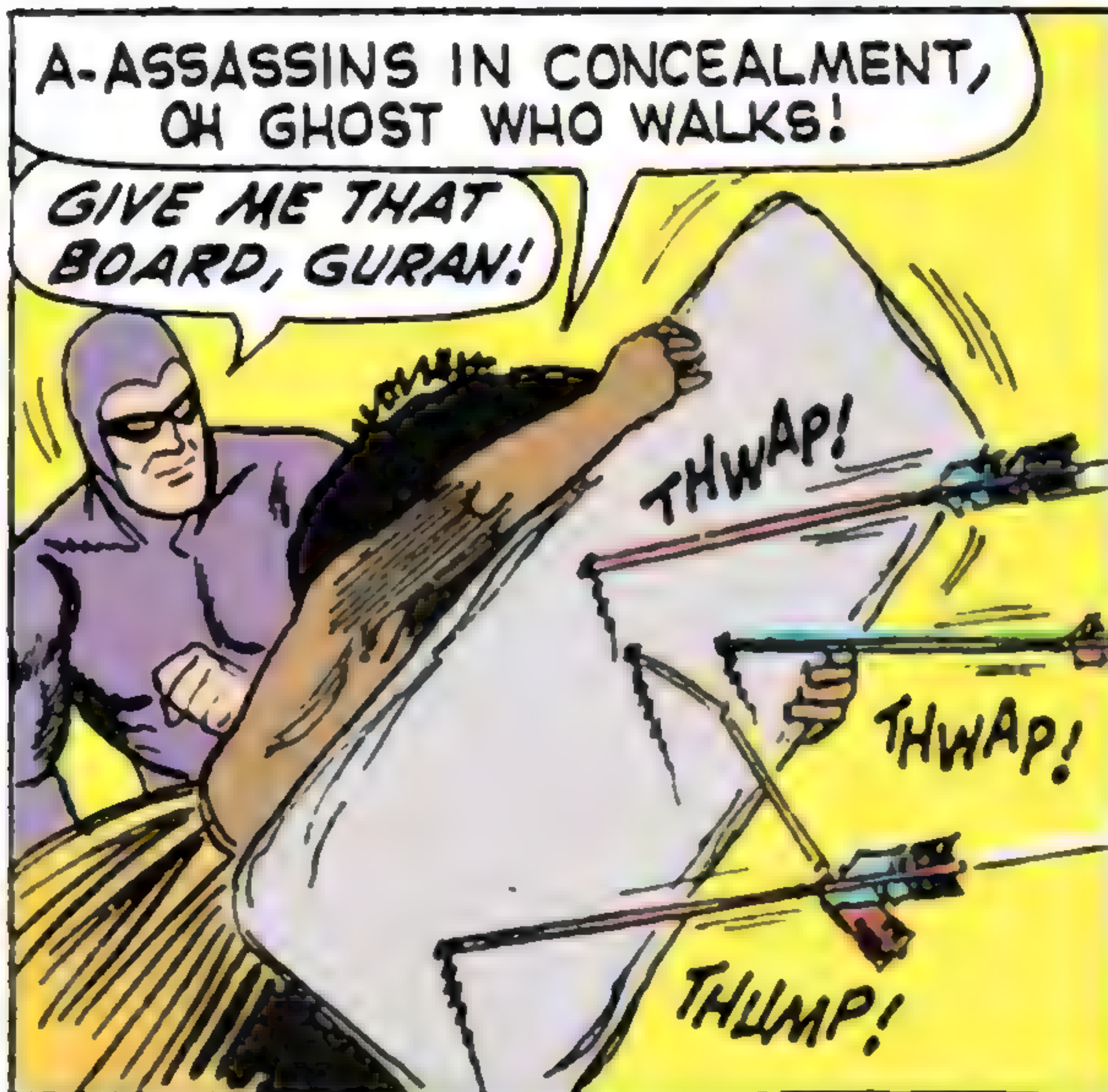
**NO, GURAN... LET THEM
GO! WE'VE GOT TO CHECK
OUT THAT VOLCANO TO
SEE HOW DANGEROUS
IT REALLY IS!**



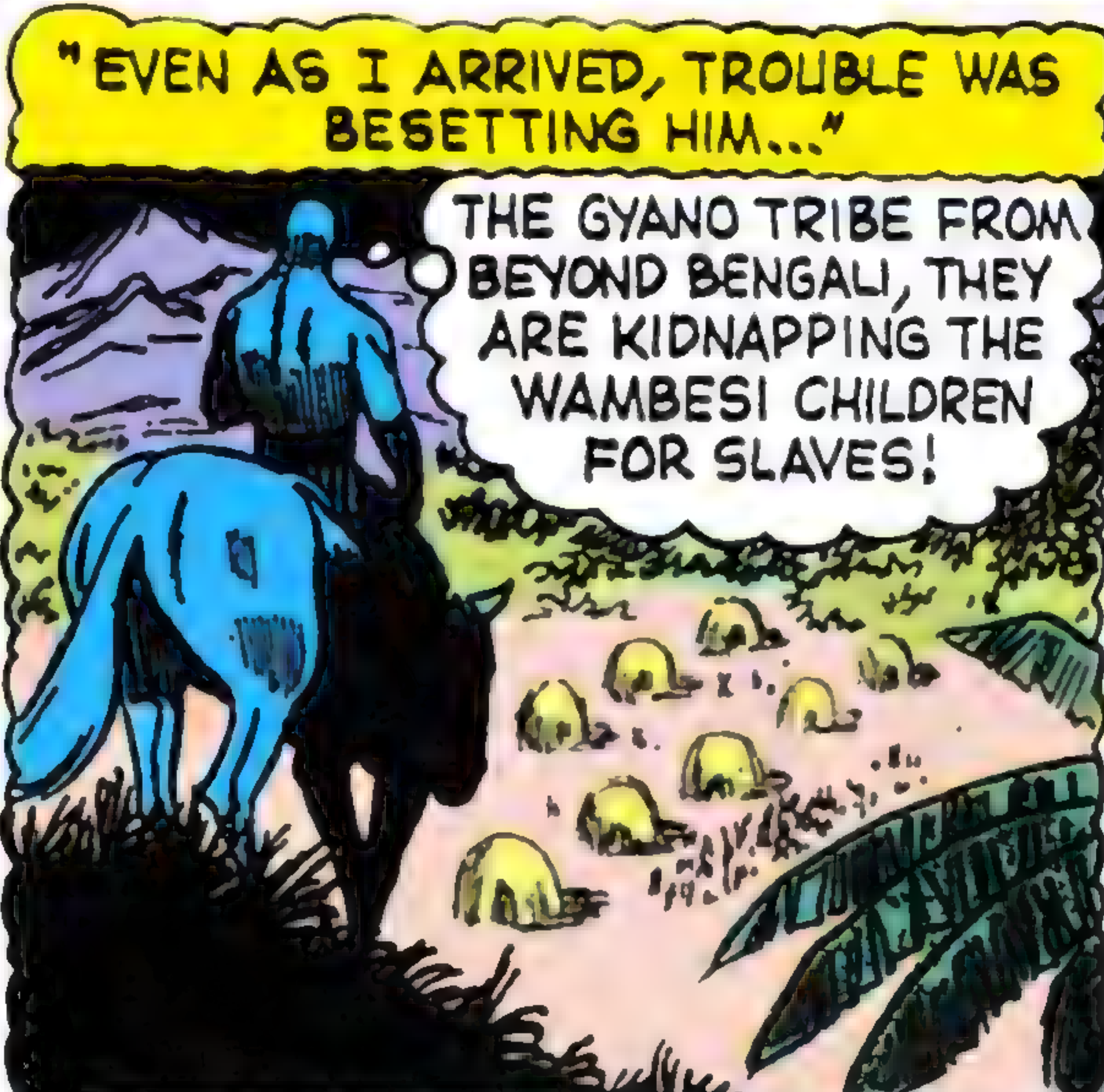
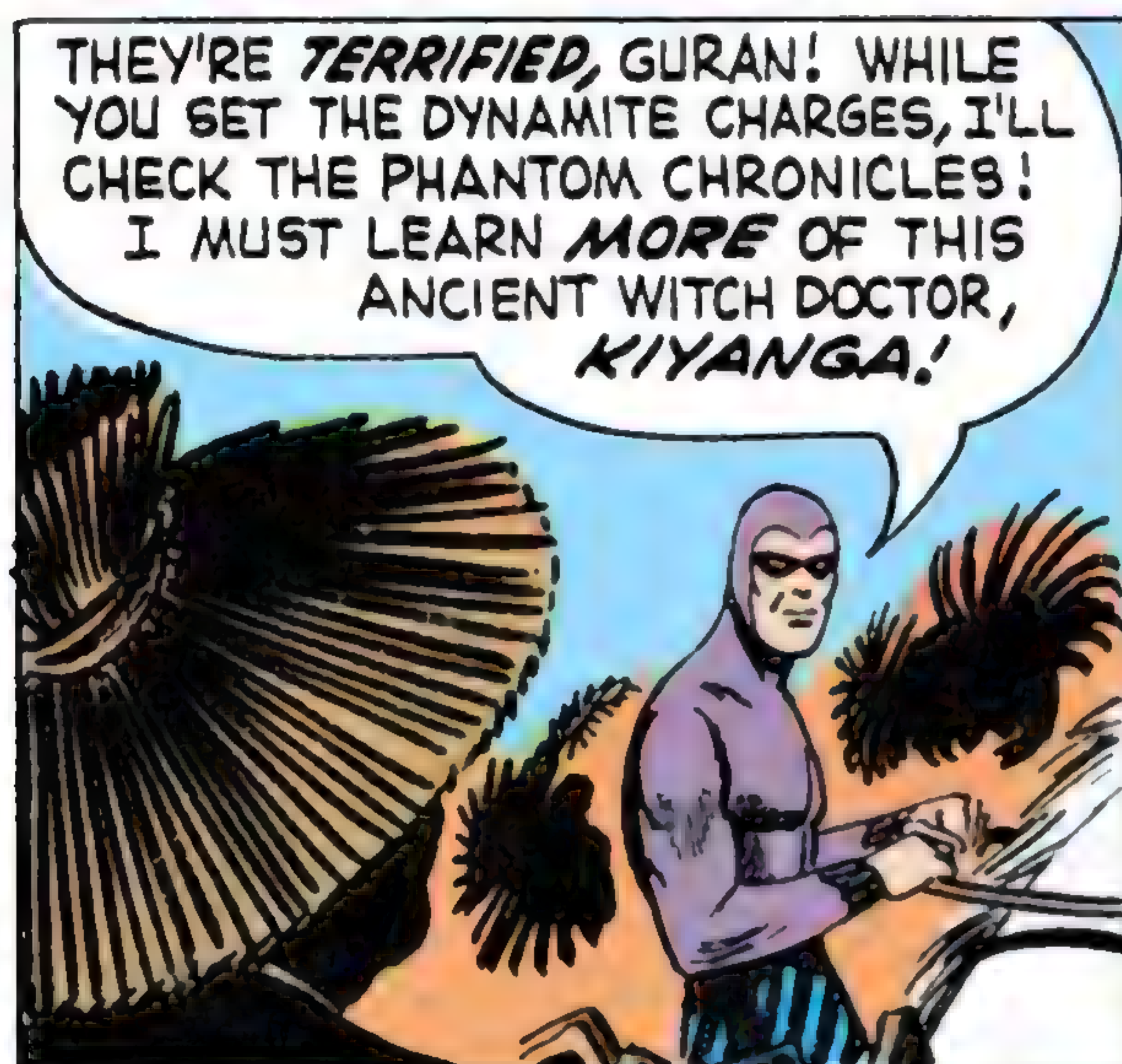


BUT AS THE PHANTOM HEADS TOWARD TOWN, THE TALKING DRUMS BEAT OUT A FRIGHTENING MESSAGE...





AFTER BUYING DYNAMITE, THE PHANTOM HEADS FOR THE DEEP WOODS...



"FEAR ALONE WAS ENOUGH
TO DISPEL THE RAIDERS..."

YIIII!! GH-GHOST WHO WALKS!
THE ONE WHO CANNOT DIE!

LEAVE
BENGALI
NOW...OR DIE
A THOUSAND
DEATHS!



"BUT I REALIZED KIYANGA NEEDED A
MORE PERMANENT PLAN TO KEEP
TROUBLE AWAY..."

YOU HAVE SAVED US, PHANTOM...BUT
OTHERS WILL COME! MY TRIBE IS
SMALL...UNTIL IT IS LARGE ENOUGH
TO DEFEND ITSELF WE ARE HELPLESS
AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!

YES, I UNDERSTAND!

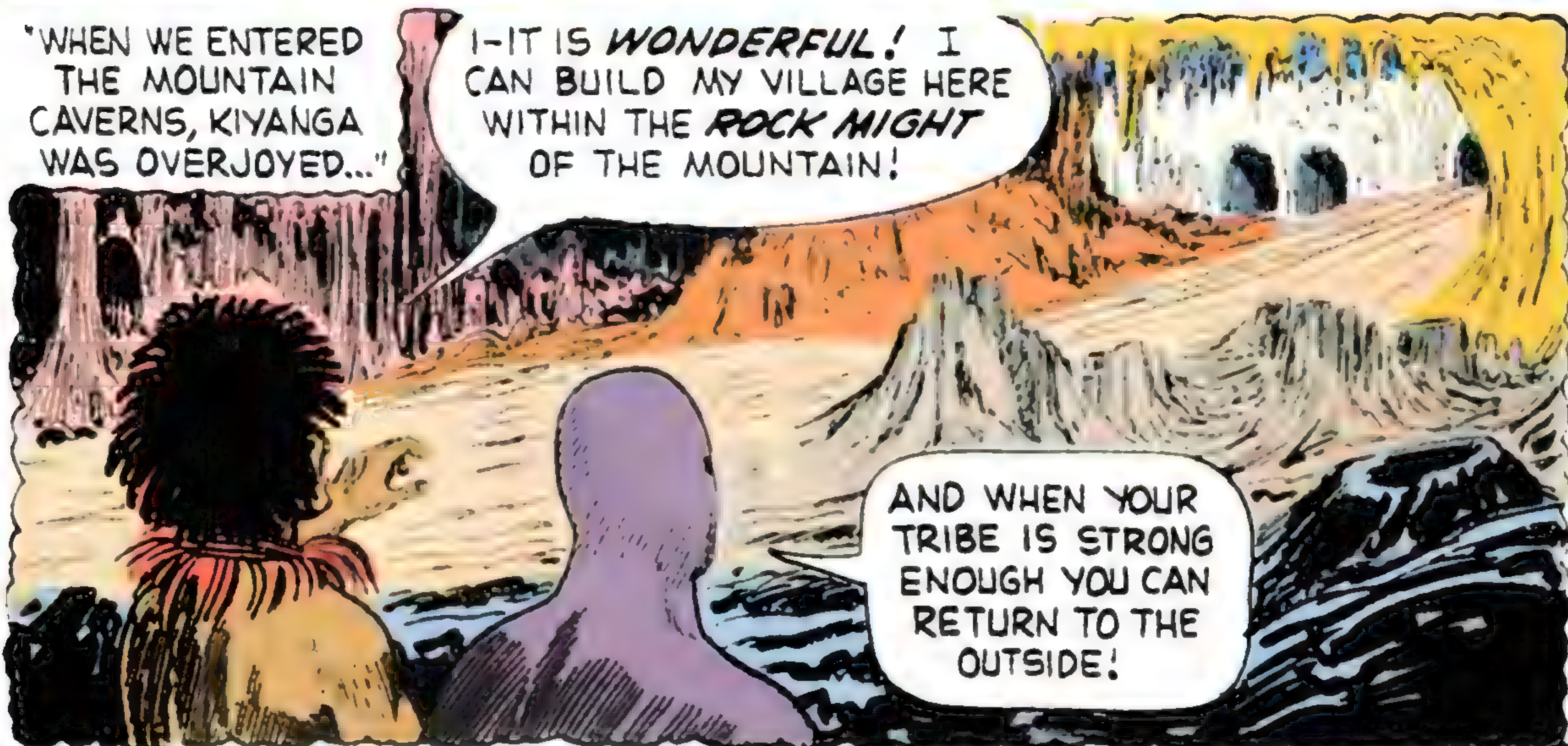


BUT I HAVE A PLAN, KIYANGA!
DEEP WITHIN **MAGIC MOUNTAIN**
THERE ARE VAST CHAMBERS...ROOMY
ENOUGH FOR SEVERAL VILLAGES
LIKE YOURS! COME... LET US
EXPLORE THEM!



"WHEN WE ENTERED
THE MOUNTAIN
CAVERNS, KIYANGA
WAS OVERJOYED..."

I-IT IS **WONDERFUL!** I
CAN BUILD MY VILLAGE HERE
WITHIN THE **ROCK MIGHT**
OF THE MOUNTAIN!



AND WHEN YOUR
TRIBE IS STRONG
ENOUGH YOU CAN
RETURN TO THE
OUTSIDE!

"FOR MANY WEEKS I HELPED KIYANGA BUILD HIS REMARKABLE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE..."

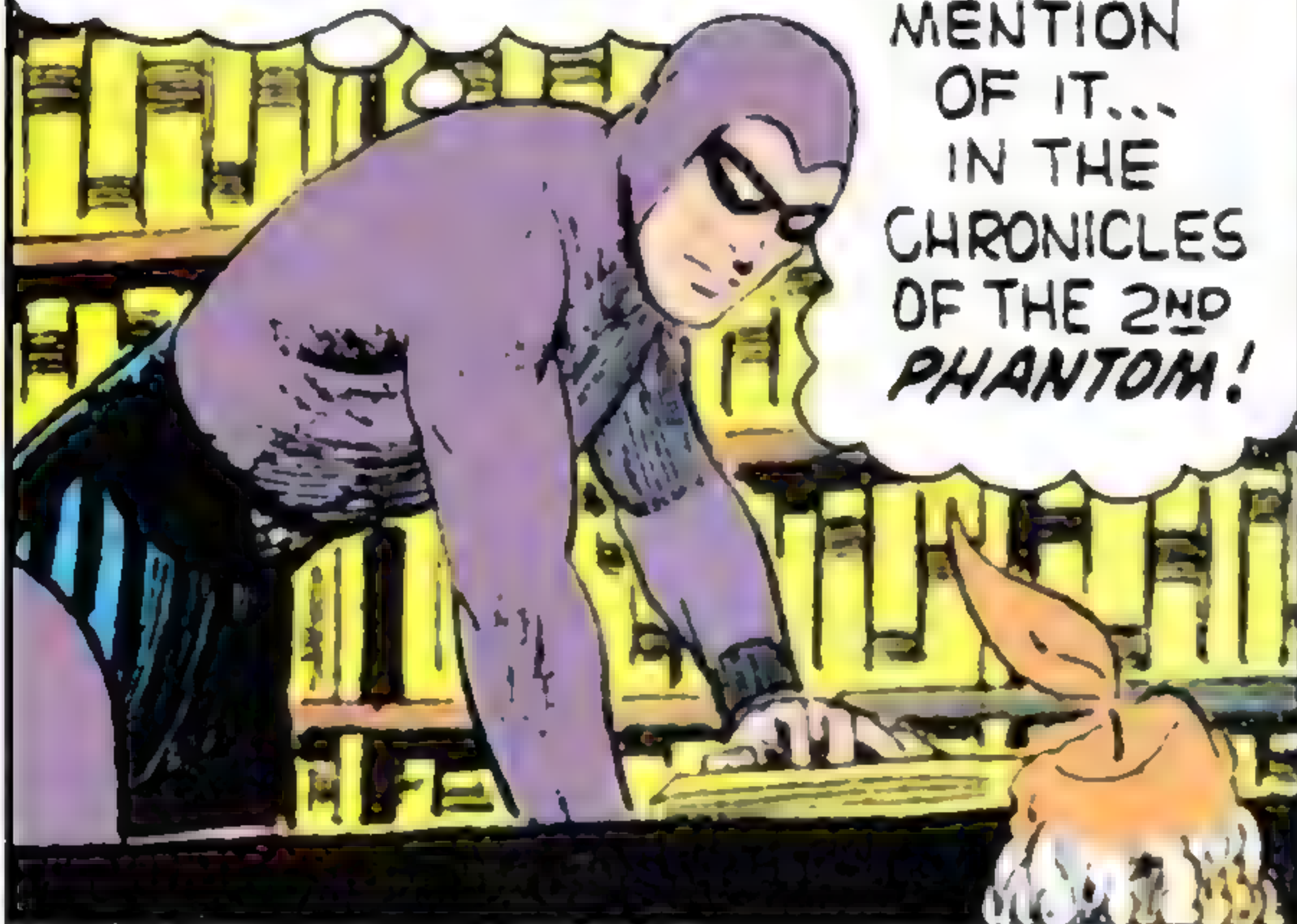
MY TRIBE SHALL EVER BE GRATEFUL TO YOU, OH GHOST WHO WALKS!

IF YOU SHOULD NEED ME AGAIN, KIYANGA, JUST LET ME KNOW!



SO! THE PHANTOM AND KIYANGA WERE *FRIENDS*! TULLUCK'S STORY IS A LIE! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *THE LOST VILLAGE*?

MENTION OF IT... IN THE CHRONICLES OF THE 2ND PHANTOM!



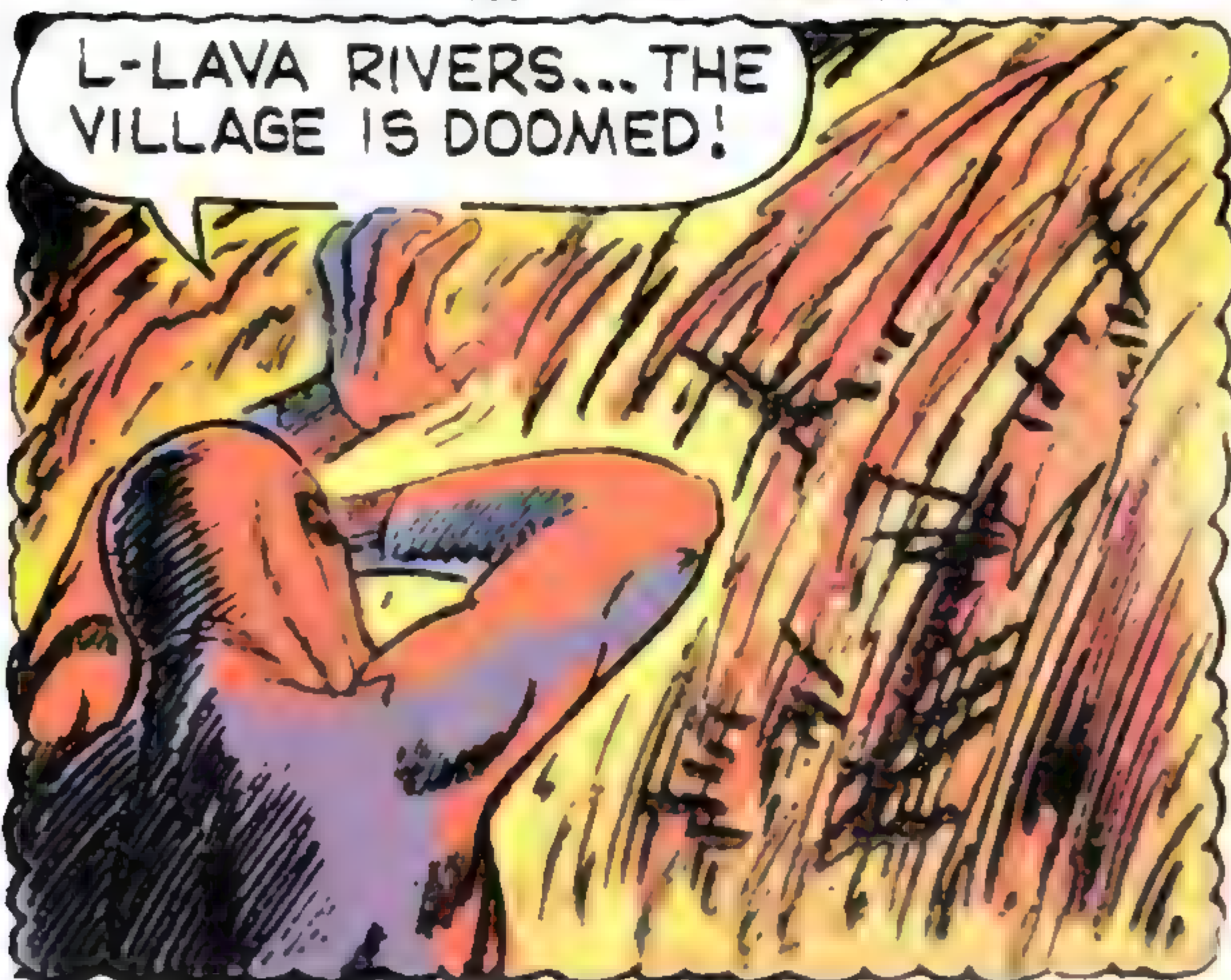
"TODAY MAGIC MOUNTAIN THUNDERED AND RUMBLED... I HURRIED THERE... FEARING FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR FRIEND, KIYANGA..."



TH-THE VILLAGE...

"BUT I WAS TOO LATE...THE SECRET MOUNTAIN VILLAGE WAS AN INFERNO OF FIRE AND LAVA..."

L-LAVA RIVERS...THE VILLAGE IS DOOMED!



WHEW... WHY, MY ANCESTOR AND KIYANGA WERE GREAT *FRIENDS*... NOT *ENEMIES*! AND HERE'S A MAP... SHOWING THE SECRET ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE! THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE, IF I'M TO *SAVE* THE WAMBESI!

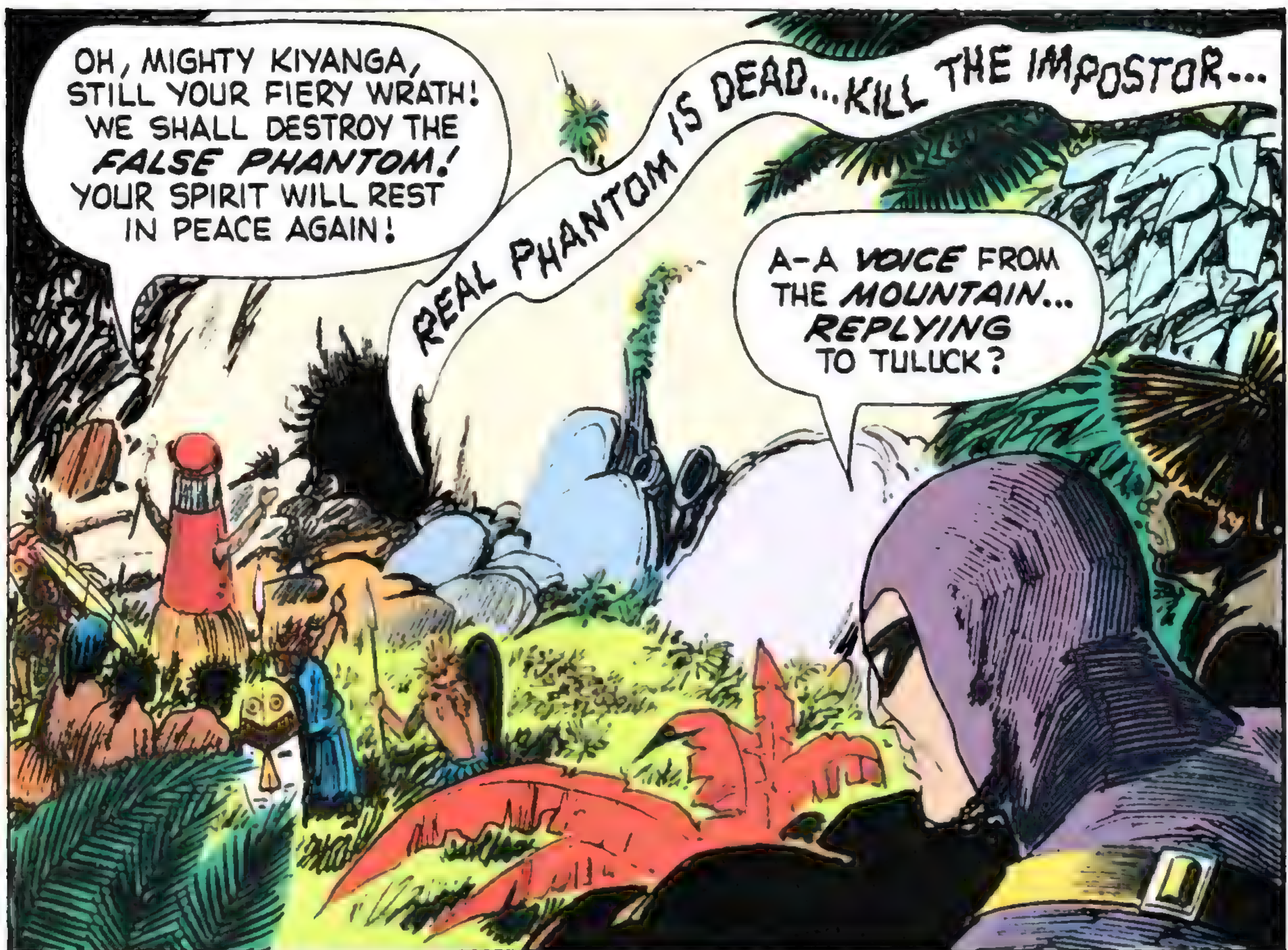


The SECRET of MAGIC MOUNTAIN

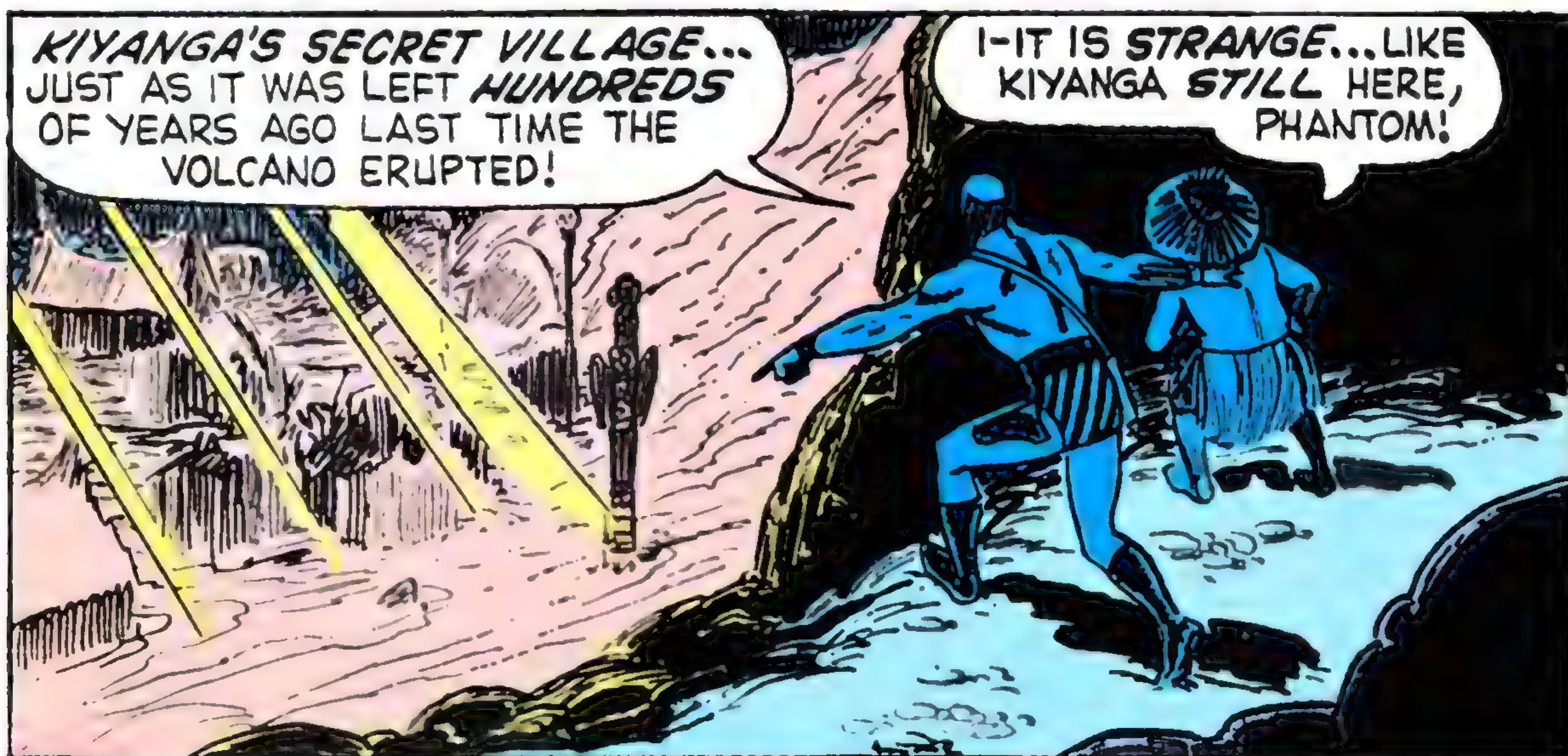
(PART TWO)

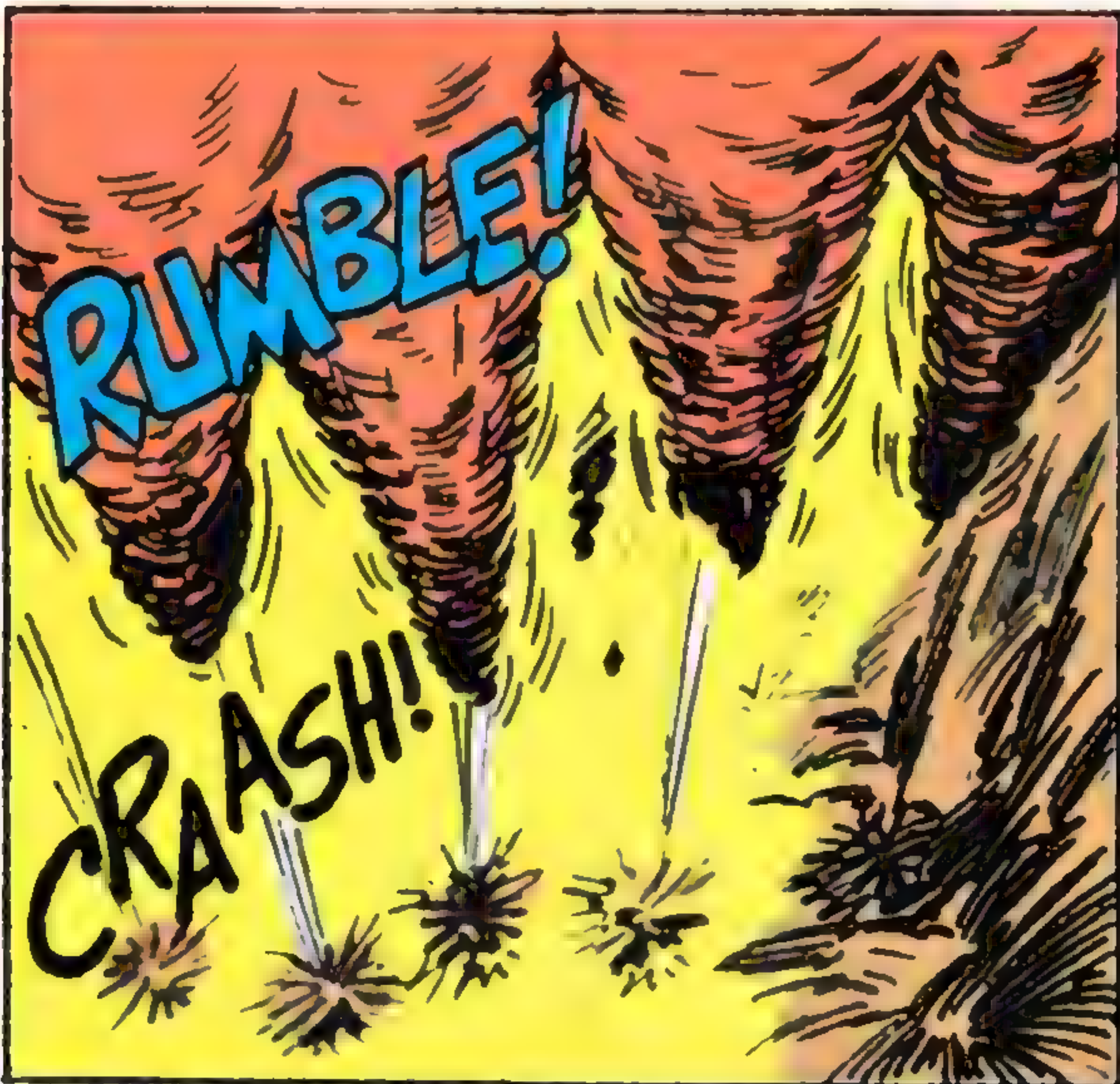
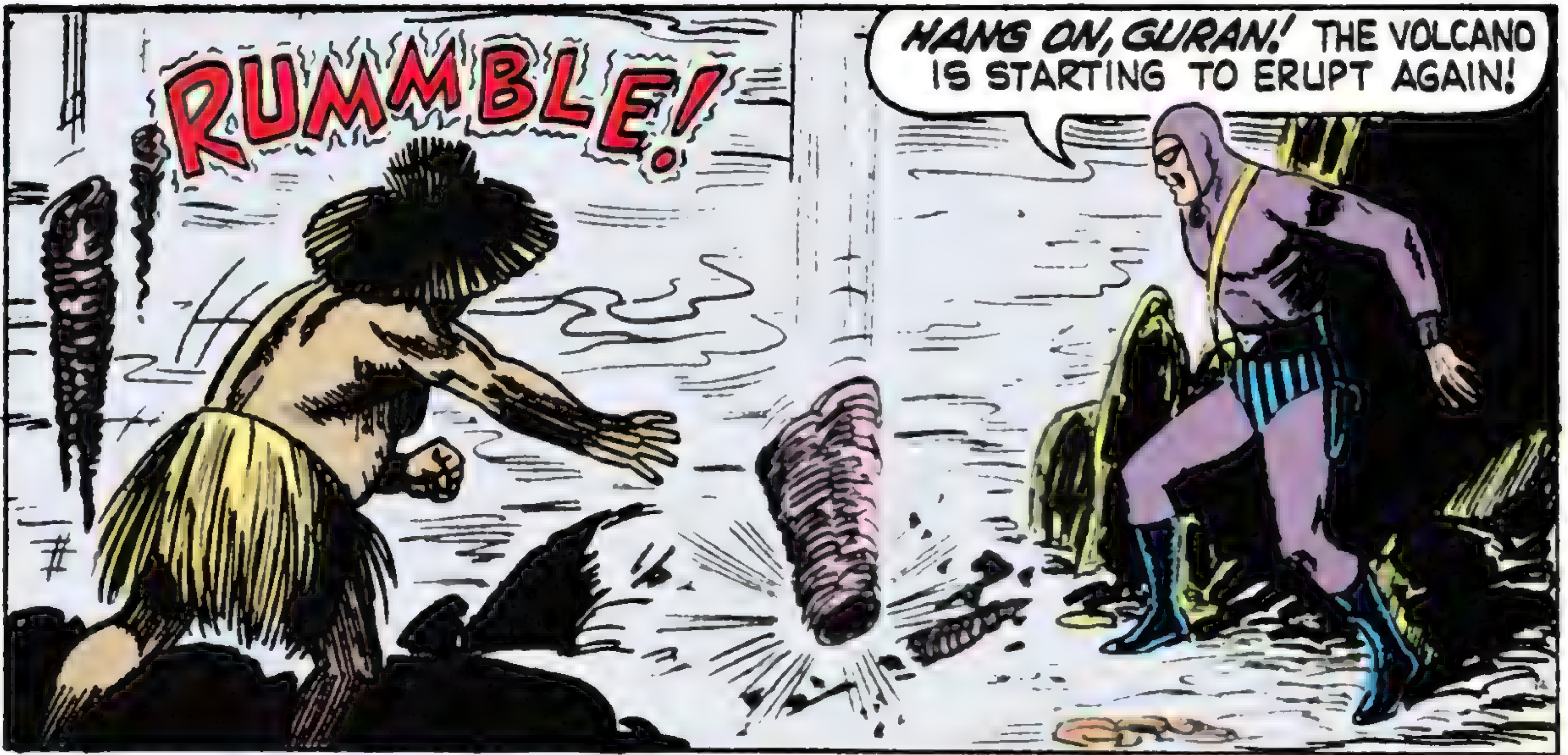
VILLAGE IN THE VOLCANO

PREPARING TO DYNAMITE THE VOLCANO ON MAGIC MOUNTAIN, THE PHANTOM APPROACHES WITH GURAN ONLY TO FIND AN AWESOME SIGHT...









IN A SHORT TIME...



HERE IS
AN OPENING
LEADING
DOWN,
PHANTOM!

GOOD WORK,
GURAN!
LET'S GET
MOVING!

*DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAIN'S HEART THEY
DESCEND...*



LOOK...UP AHEAD!
STEAM IS SEEPING
THROUGH A BIGGER
CRACK! WE'LL
SET OUR CHARGE
THERE!

QUICKLY, THE PHANTOM GETS TO WORK...

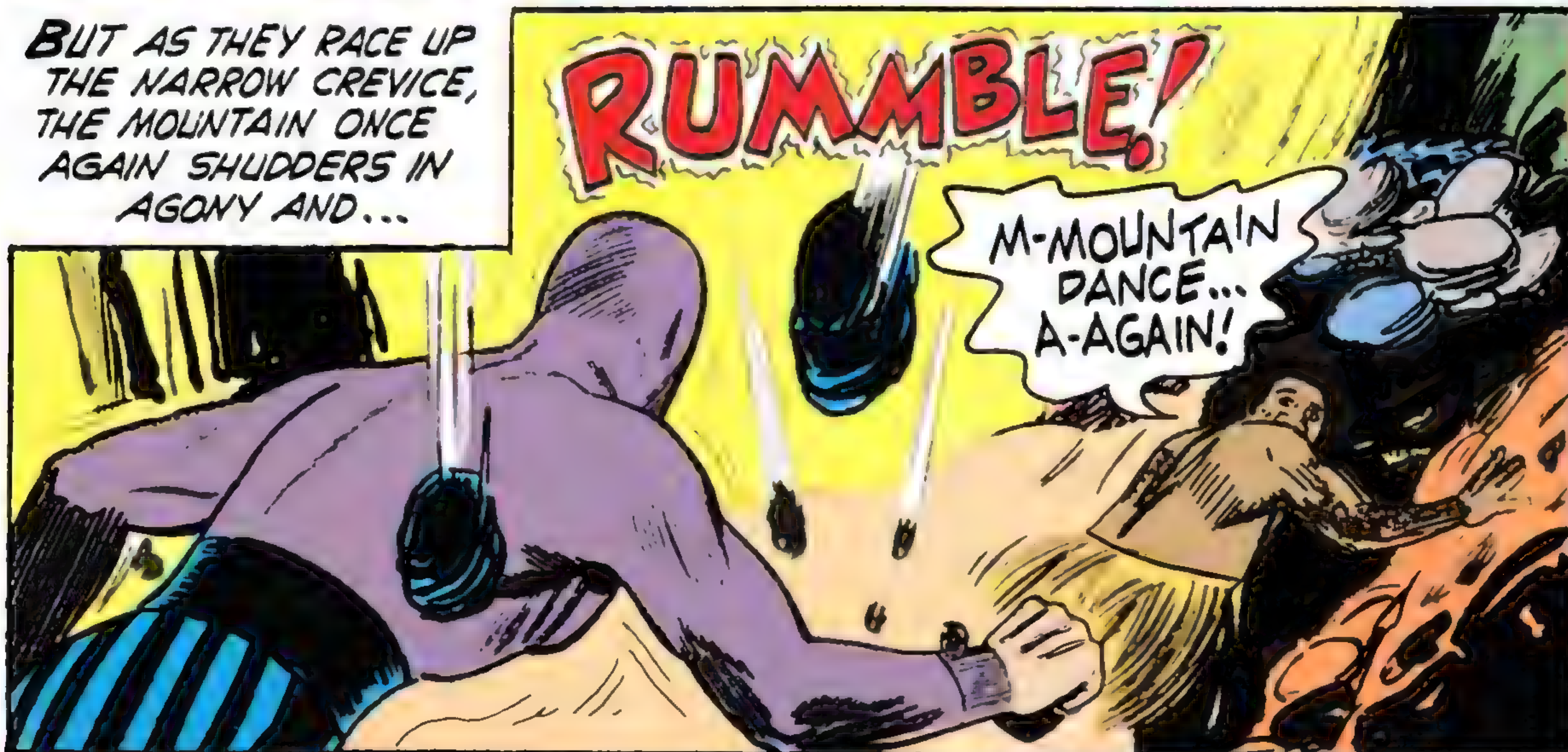


WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF FUSE...
TO GIVE US PLENTY OF TIME TO
GET OUT
OF HERE!



THAT DOES IT!
RUN FOR IT,
GURAN!

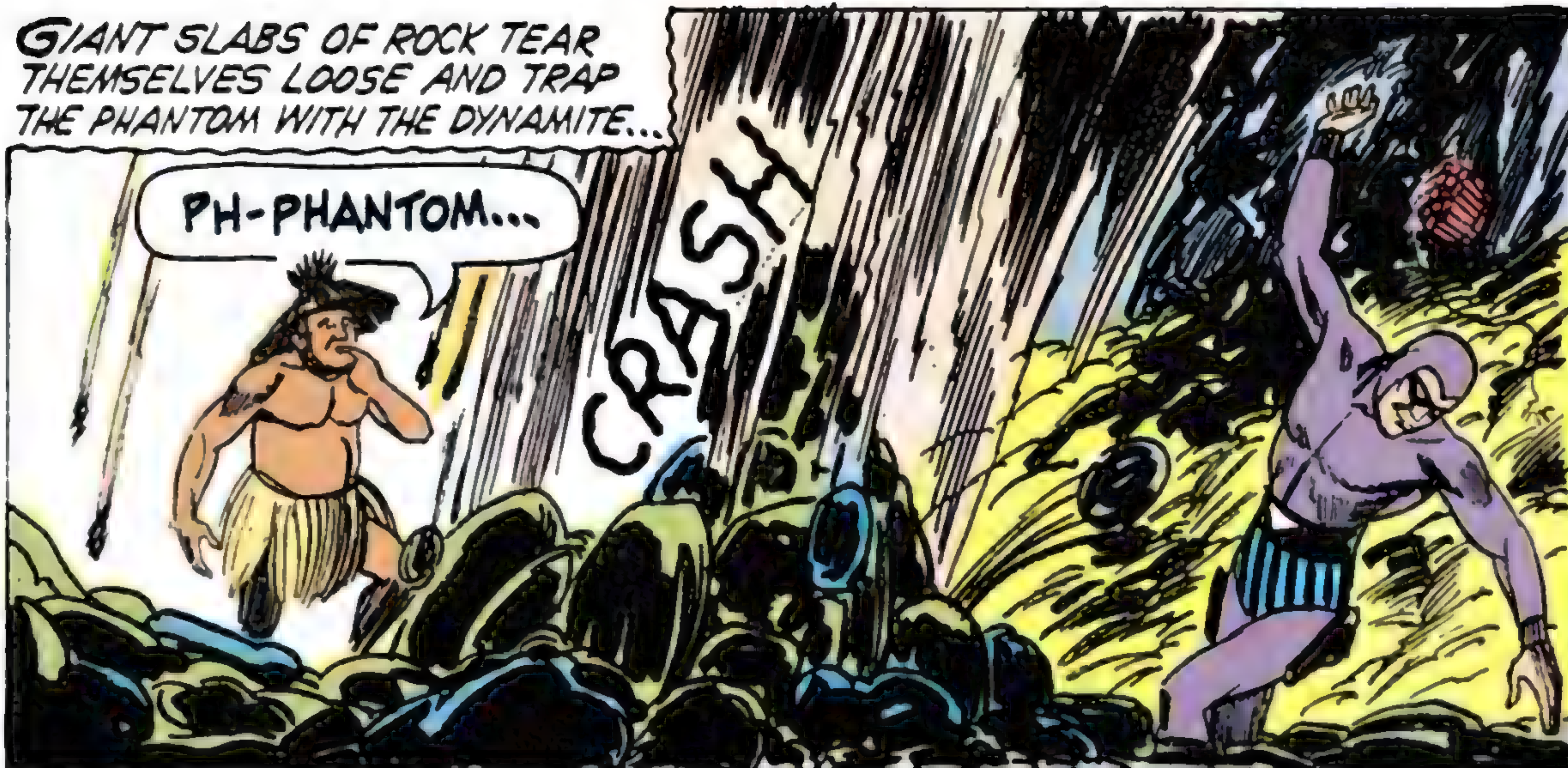
*BUT AS THEY RACE UP
THE NARROW CREVICE,
THE MOUNTAIN ONCE
AGAIN SHUDDERS IN
AGONY AND...*



RUMBLE!

M-MOUNTAIN
DANCE...
A-AGAIN!

GIANT SLABS OF ROCK TEAR THEMSELVES LOOSE AND TRAP THE PHANTOM WITH THE DYNAMITE...



GURAN! I'M TRAPPED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS! I...CAN'T RETURN TO CUT THE FUSE... GO ON AHEAD AND SAVE YOURSELF!



IT'S HOPELESS, GURAN! IN JUST A FEW MINUTES THE DYNAMITE WILL EXPLODE AND THE TUNNEL WITH IT!

I WILL TRY TO DIG YOU FREE!



I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE, GURAN! TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

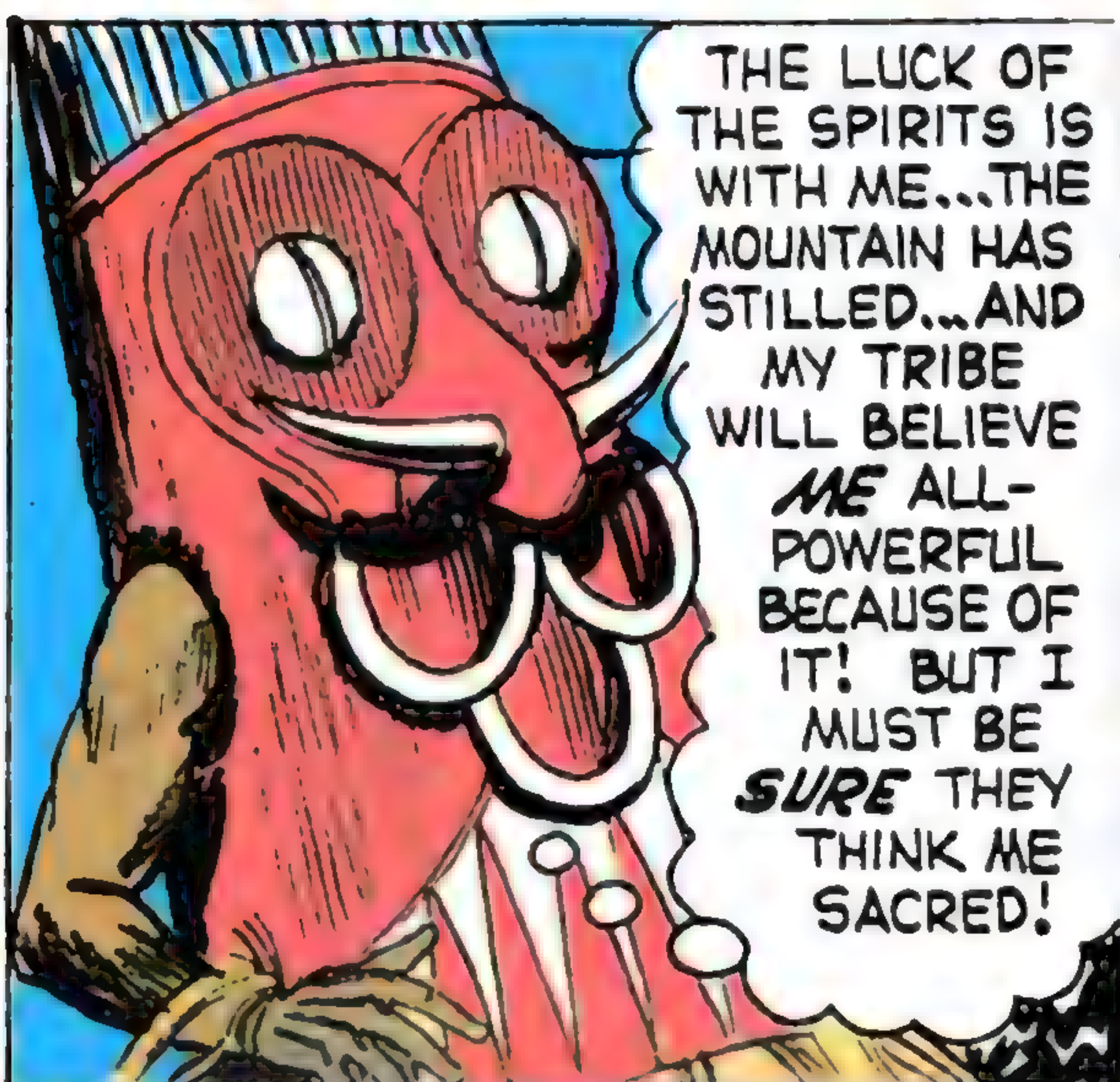
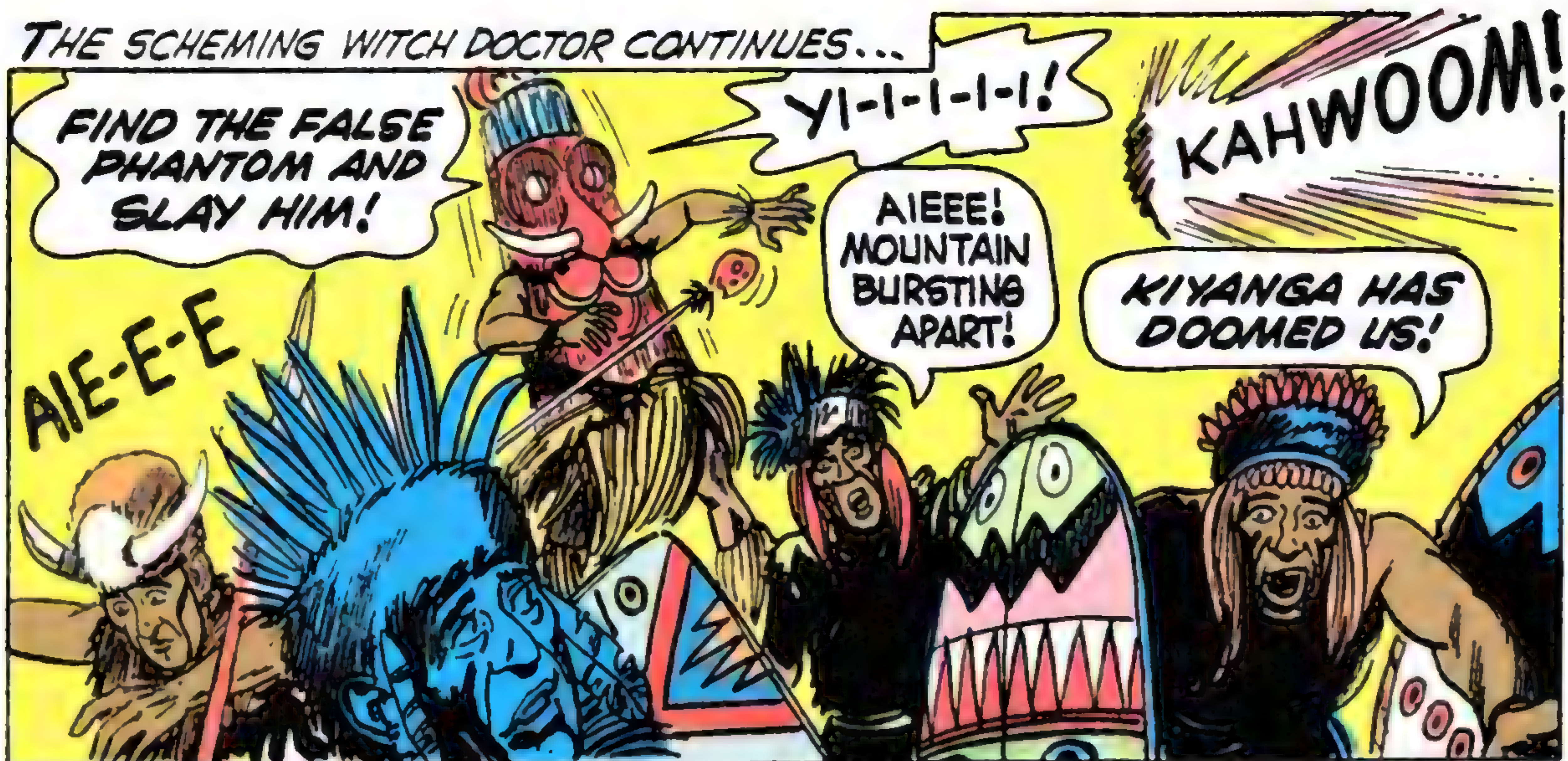


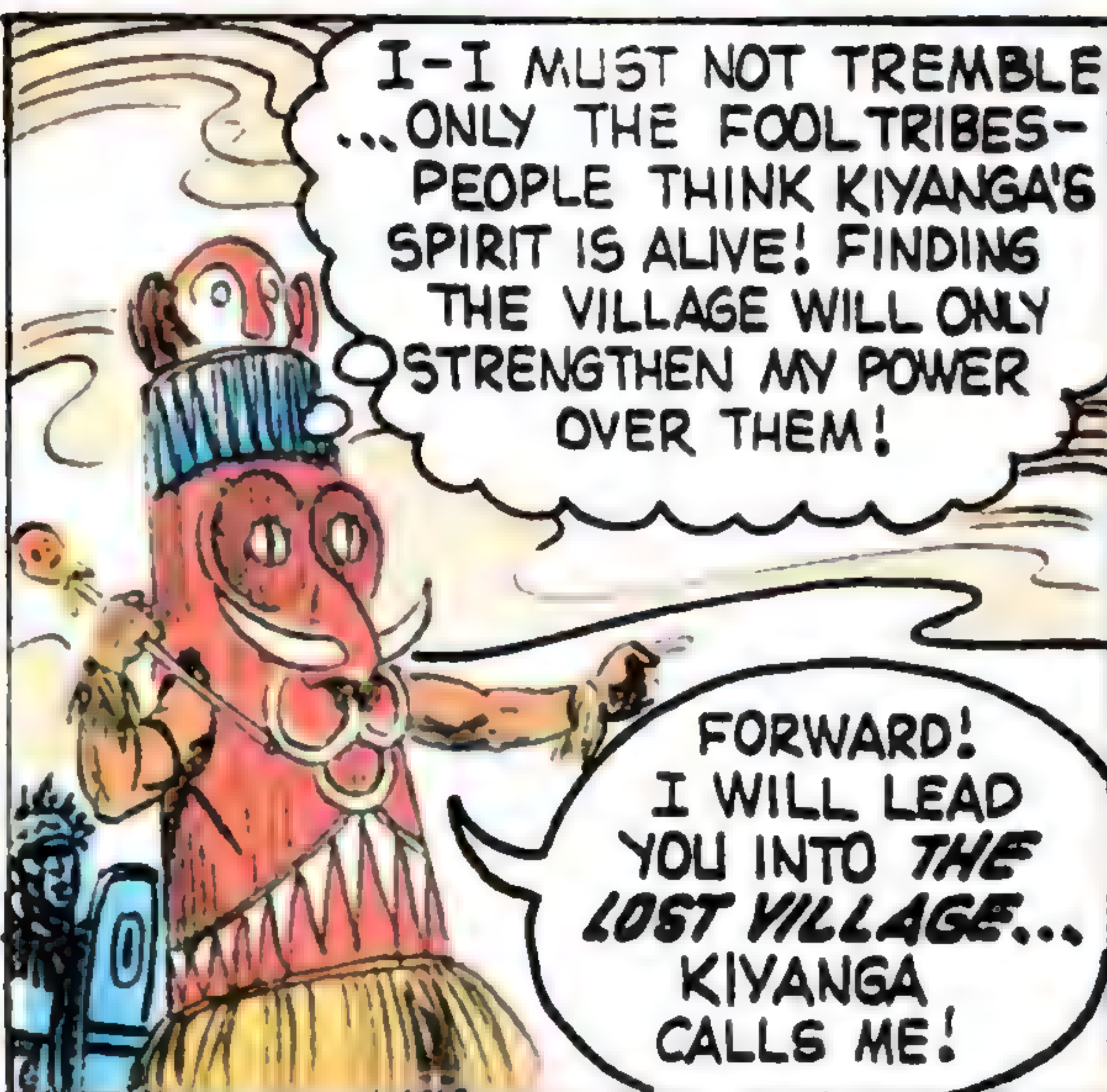
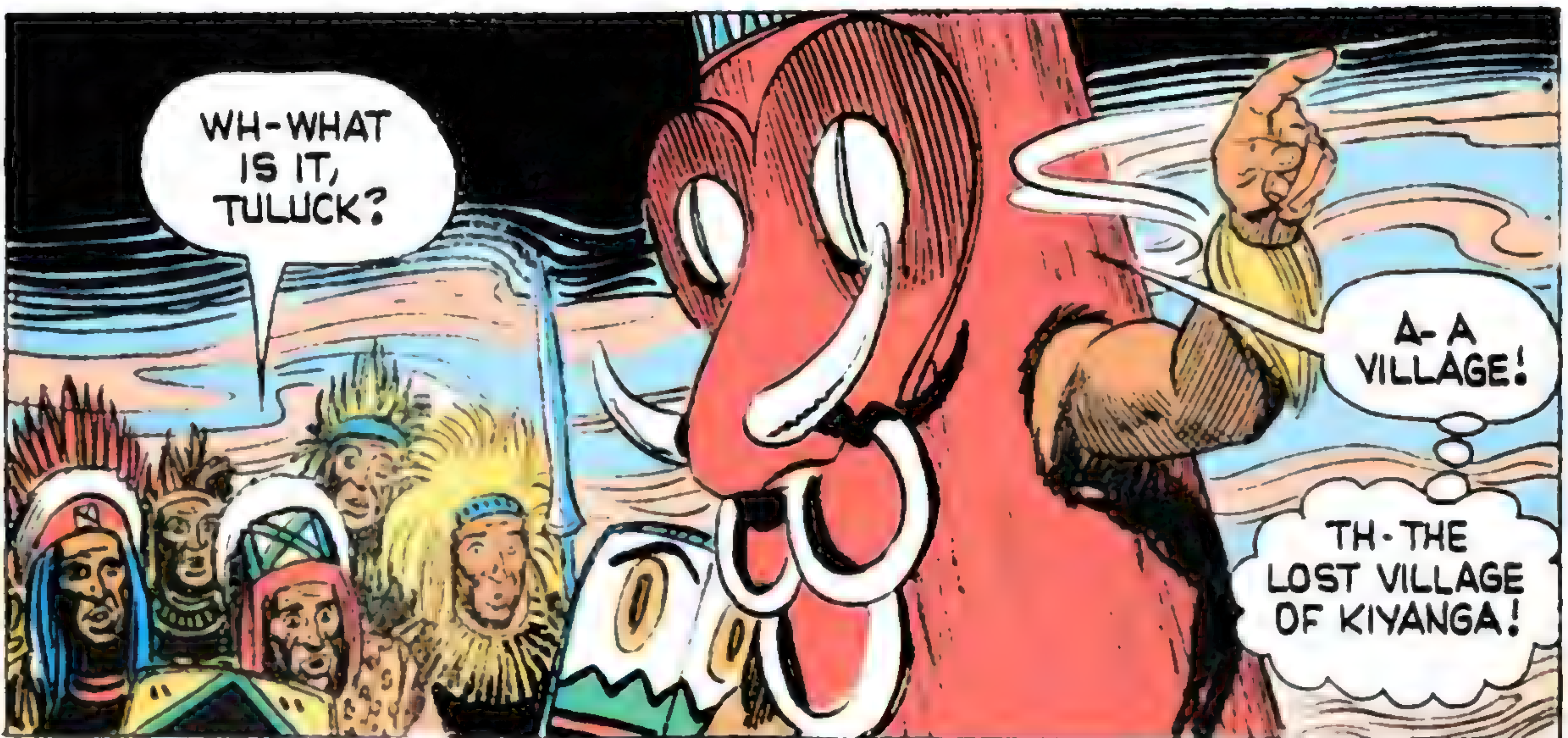
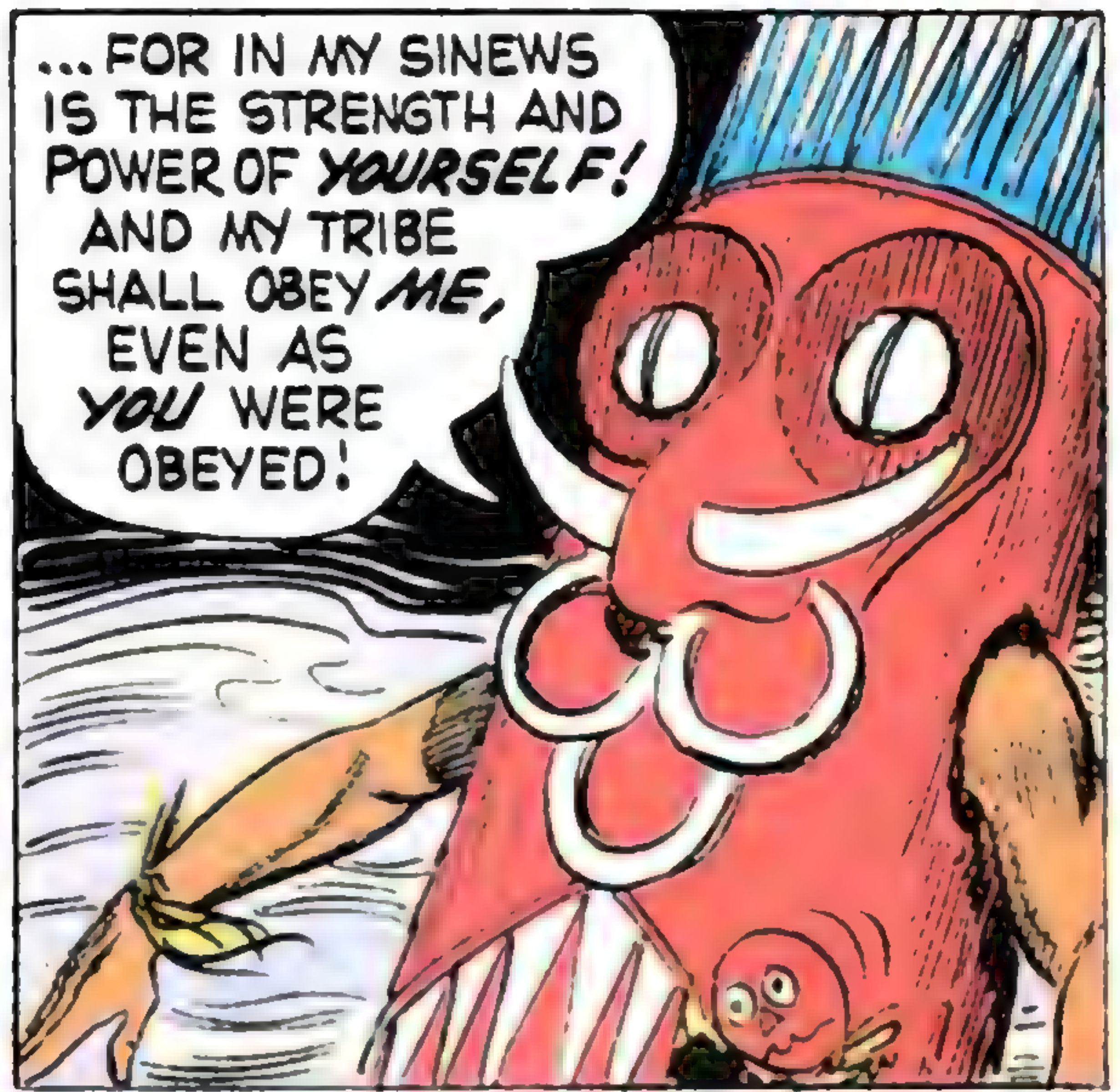
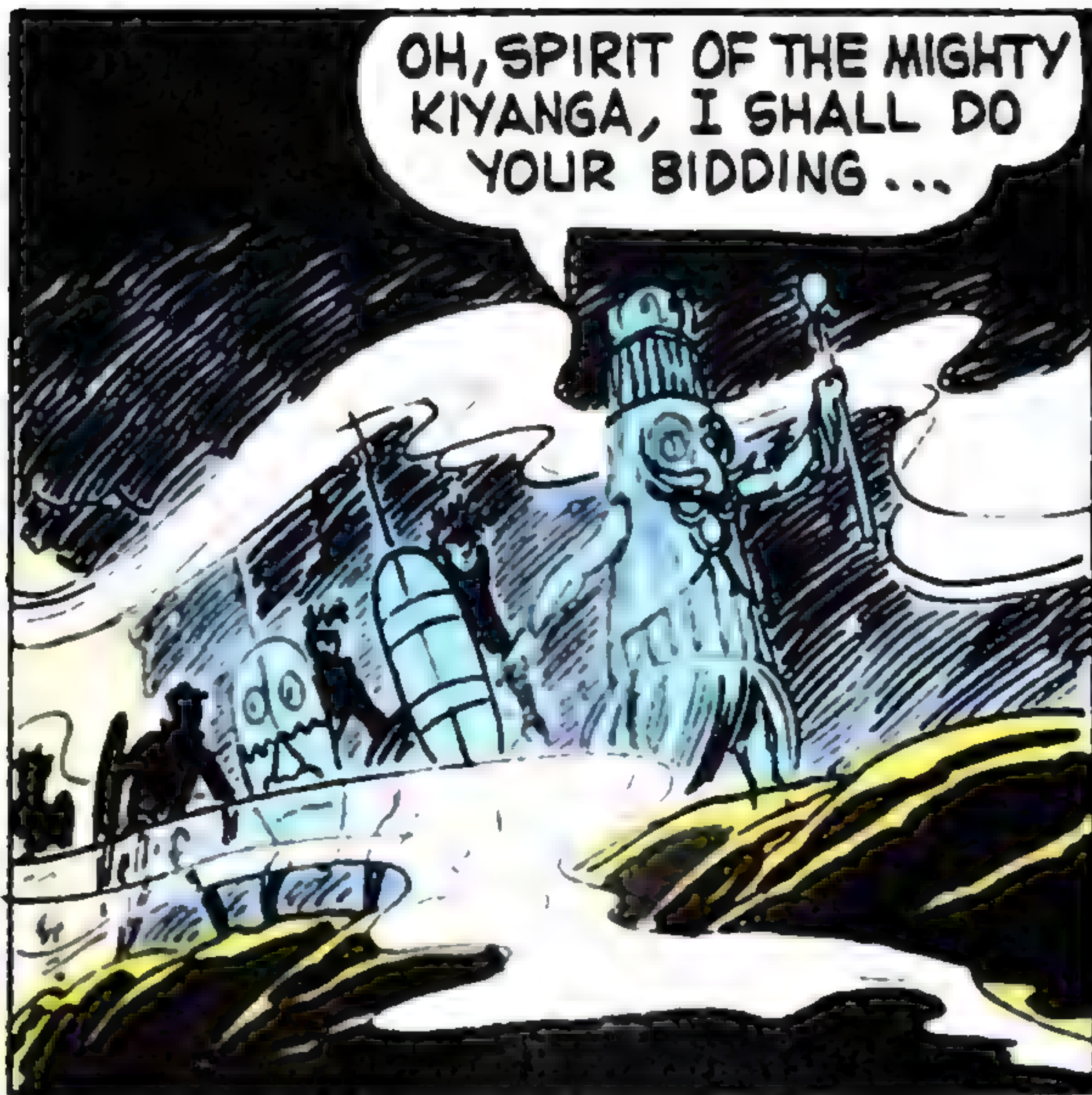
OUTSIDE, TULUCK ALSO GIVES A COMMAND...

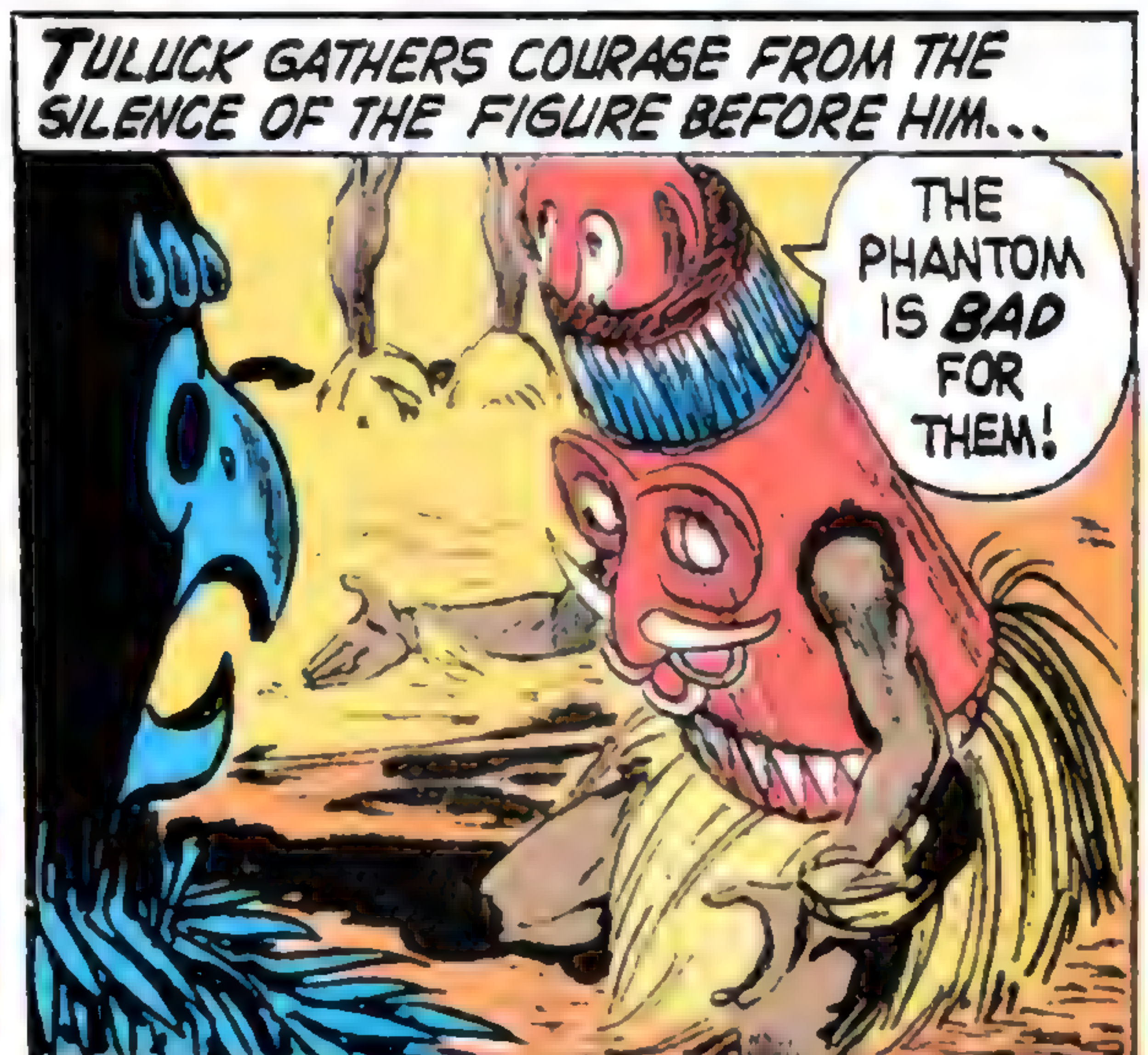
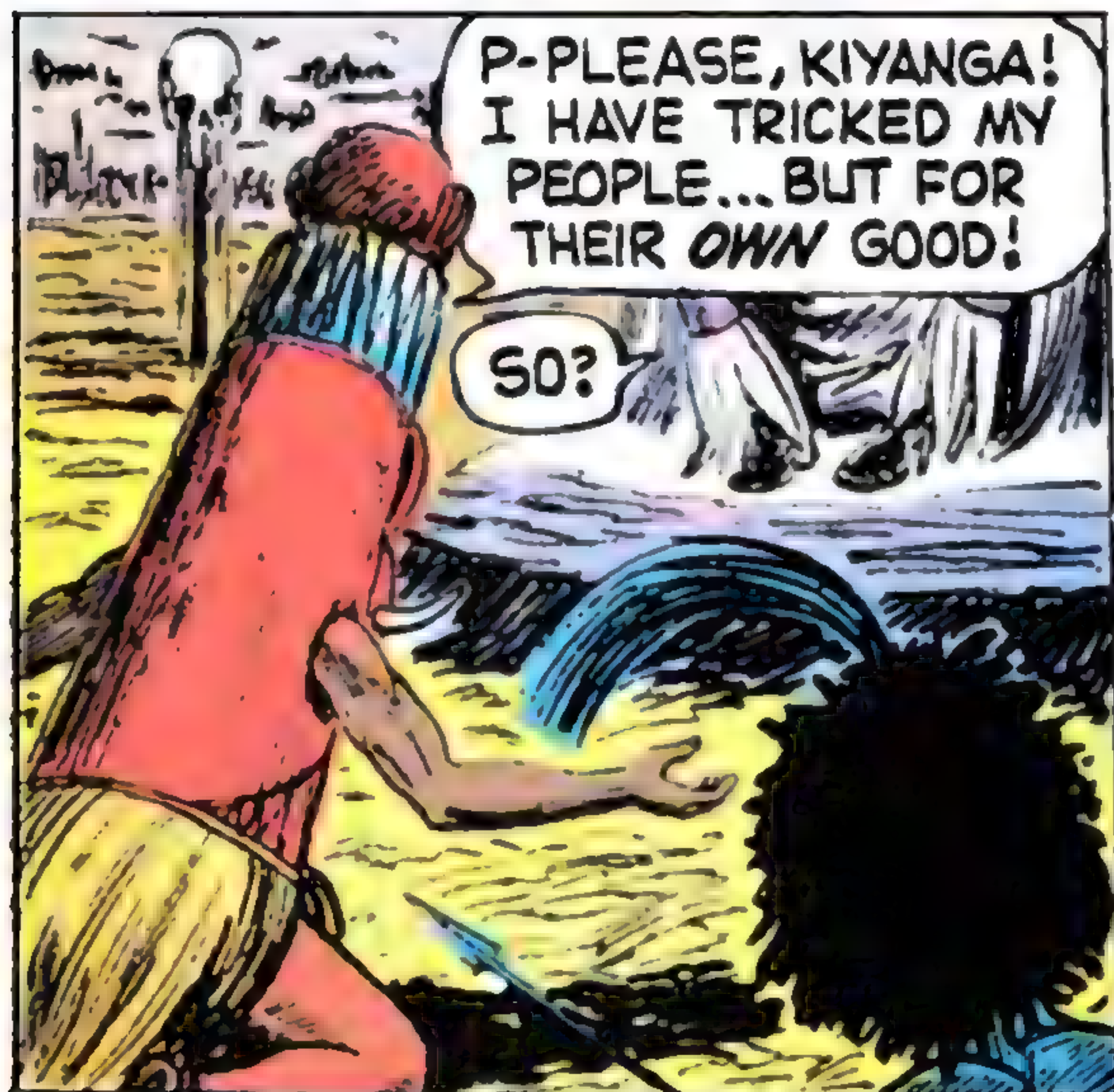
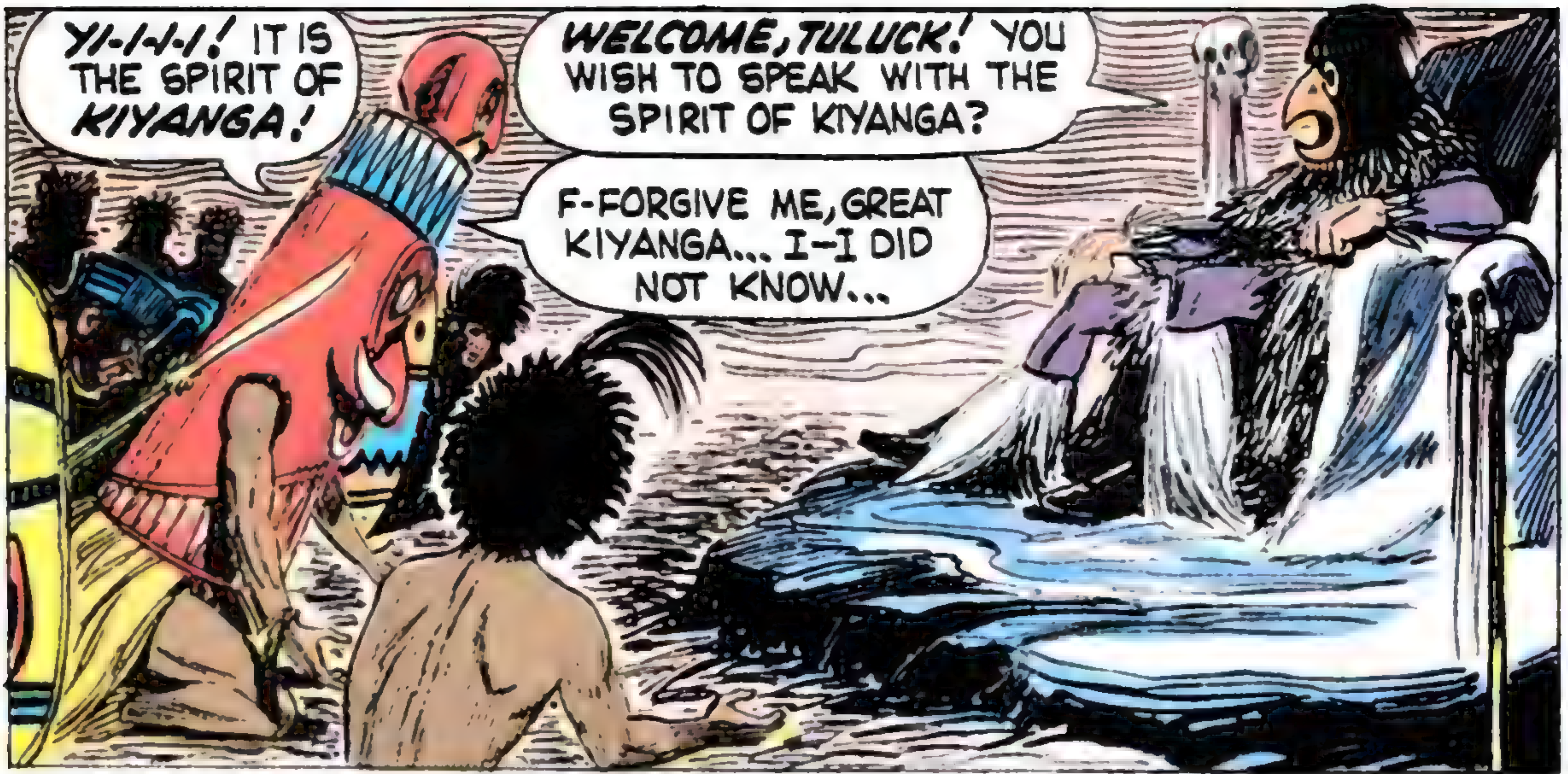
YOU HAVE HEARD THE SPIRIT OF THE GREAT KIYANGA SPEAK! YOU MUST OBEY!

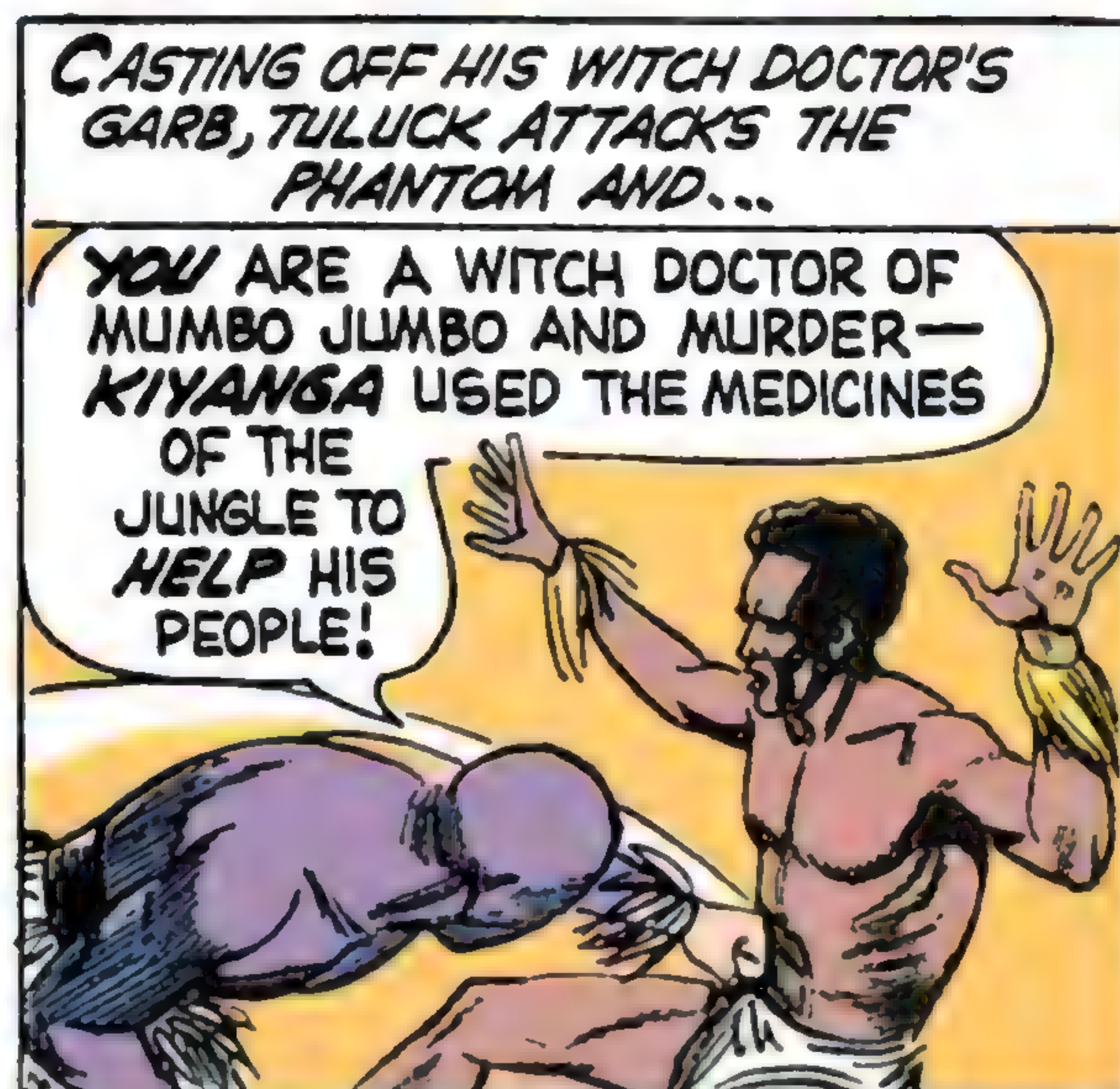
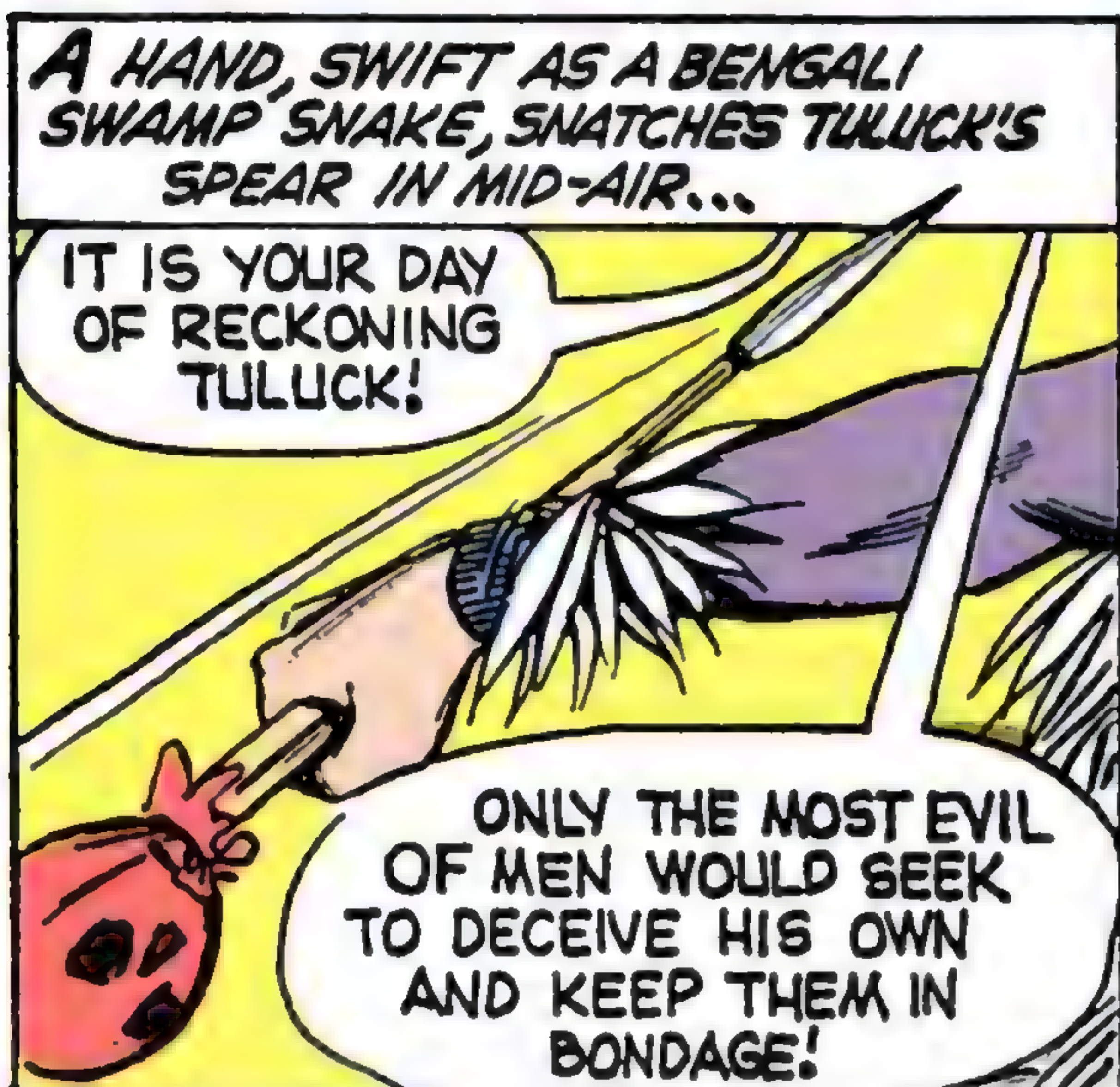


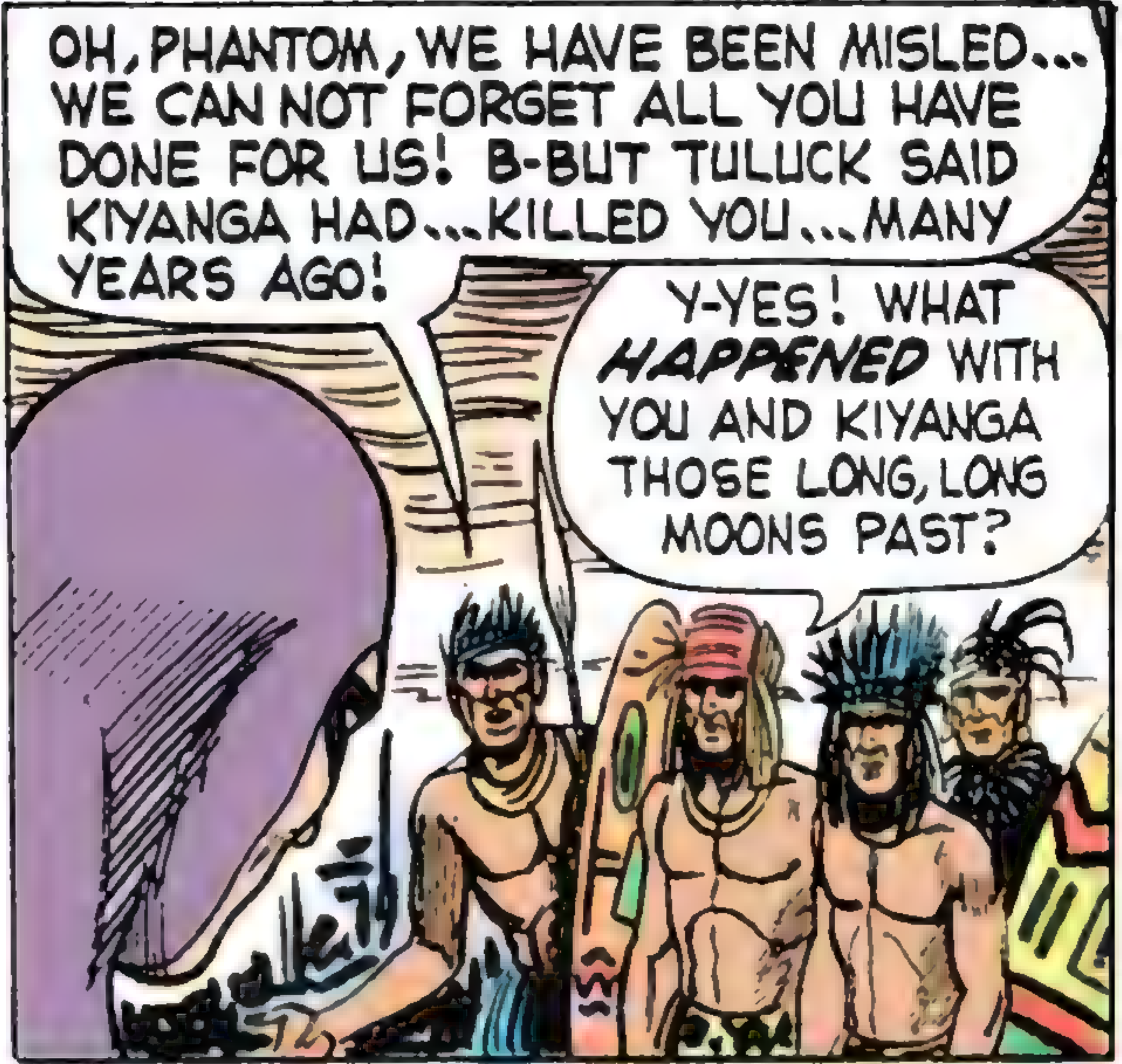
THE SCHEMING WITCH DOCTOR CONTINUES...









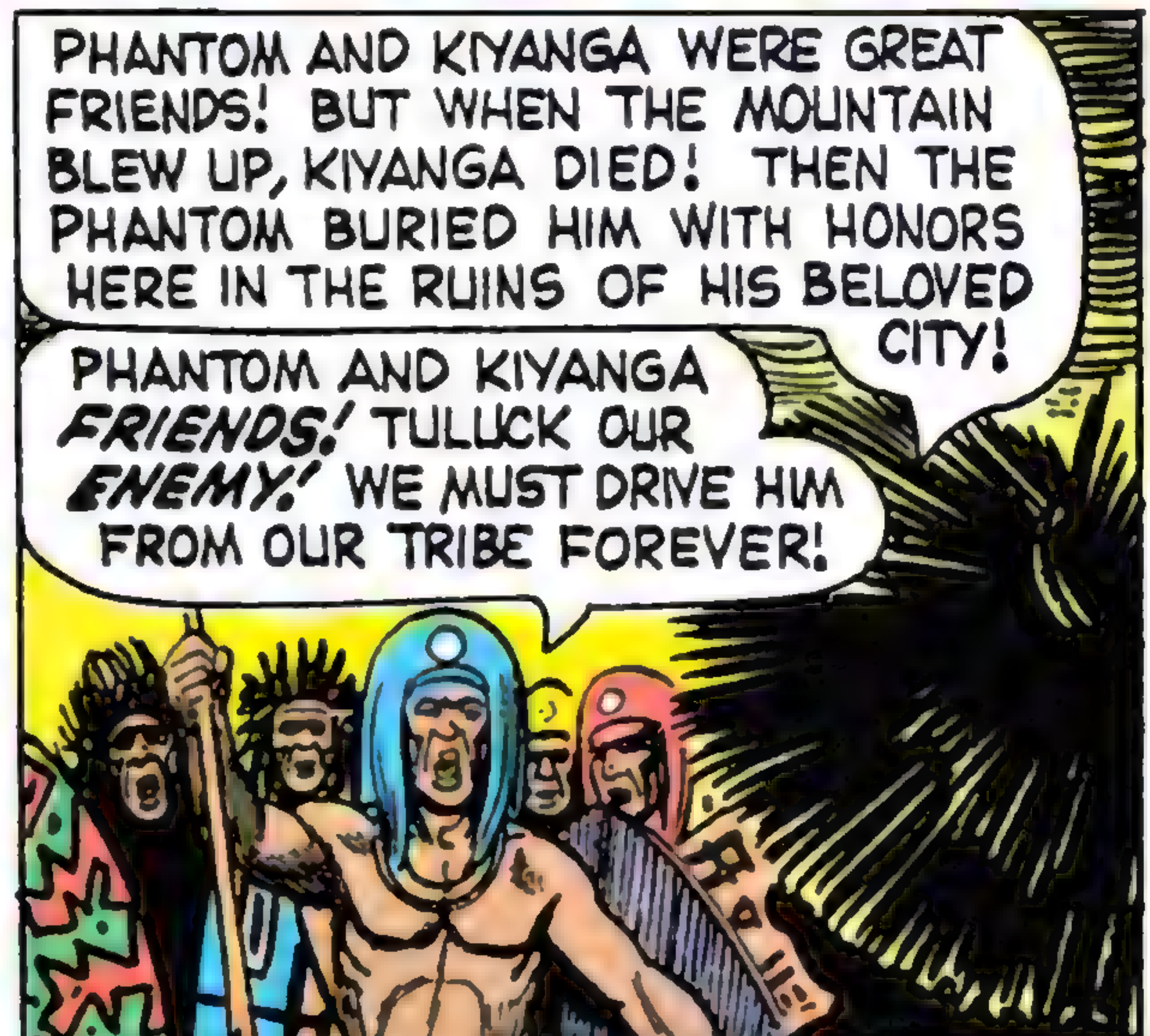


OH, PHANTOM, WE HAVE BEEN MISLED... WE CAN NOT FORGET ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR US! B-BUT TULUCK SAID KIYANGA HAD...KILLED YOU...MANY YEARS AGO!

Y-YES! WHAT **HAPPENED** WITH YOU AND KIYANGA THOSE LONG, LONG MOONS PAST?



HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH, WAMBESI! GURAN, HERE, WILL TELL YOU HOW!



PHANTOM AND KIYANGA WERE GREAT FRIENDS! BUT WHEN THE MOUNTAIN BLEW UP, KIYANGA DIED! THEN THE PHANTOM BURIED HIM WITH HONORS HERE IN THE RUINS OF HIS BELOVED CITY!

PHANTOM AND KIYANGA **FRIENDS!** TULUCK OUR **ENEMY!** WE MUST DRIVE HIM FROM OUR TRIBE FOREVER!



THANKS TO YOU, PHANTOM, THEY **STILL** HONOR SPIRIT OF KIYANGA!

YES, GURAN, AND I WONDER IF IT WAS **KIYANGA'S SPIRIT** THAT SUDDENLY SPLIT THOSE BOULDERS IN THE TUNNEL SO THAT I COULD GET FREE! WHO CAN SAY?



Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM



THE PHANTOM
PART ONE

DELILAH

ON A GREAT RIVER RUNNING NEAR THE DEEP WOODS, A FEARSOME FORM OF SUDDEN DEATH MOVES IN UPON THE GHOST WHO WALKS! AND WITH EYES GLAZED, THE FAITHFUL GURAN, IGNORES THE DANGER TO HIS FRIEND, FOR BOTH ARE HELPLESS VICTIMS OF THE TERRIBLE POWERS OF DELILAH...



IN A CORNER OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE,
FAR FROM THE DEEP WOODS, A WAMBESI
WARRIOR SPRINGS TO ATTENTION AS...



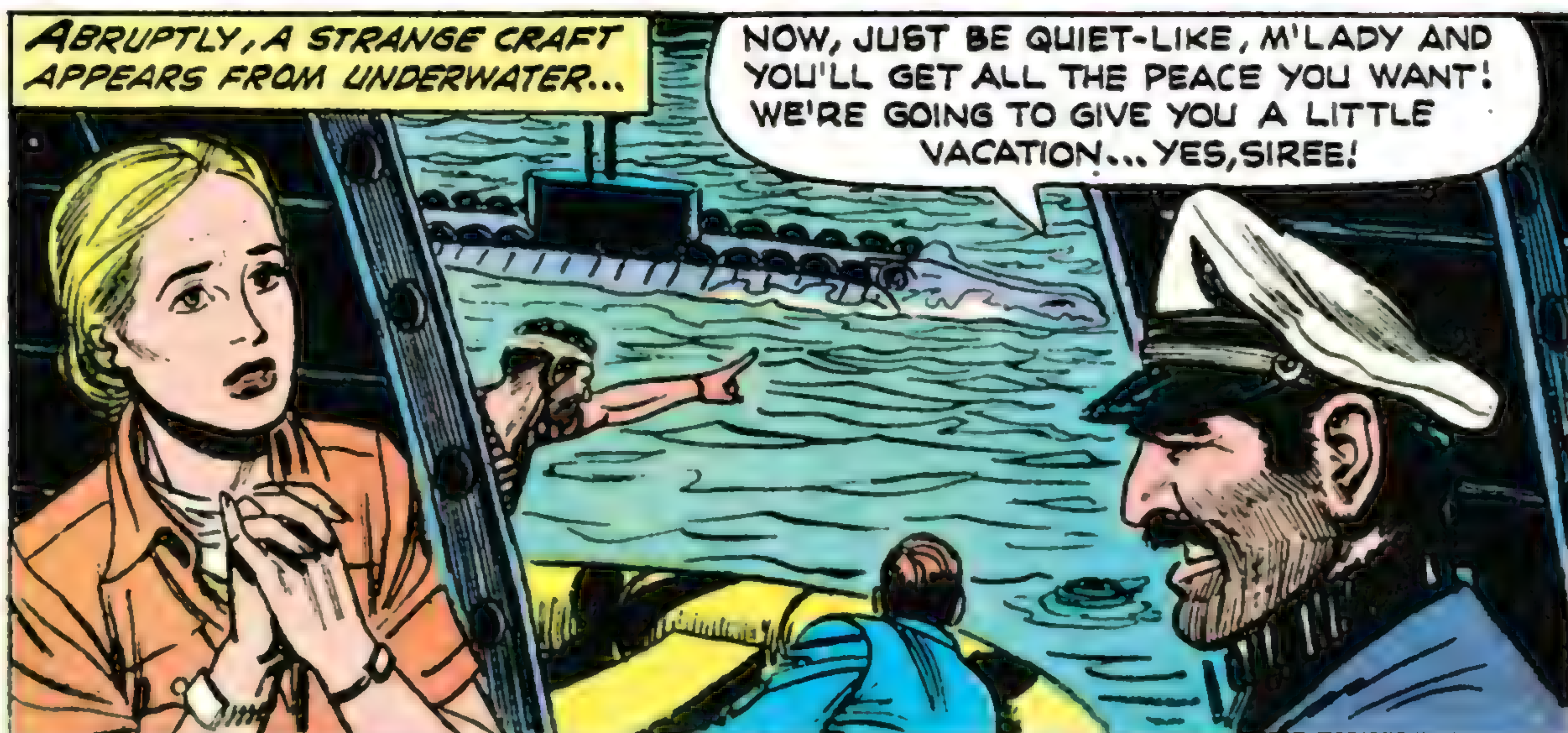
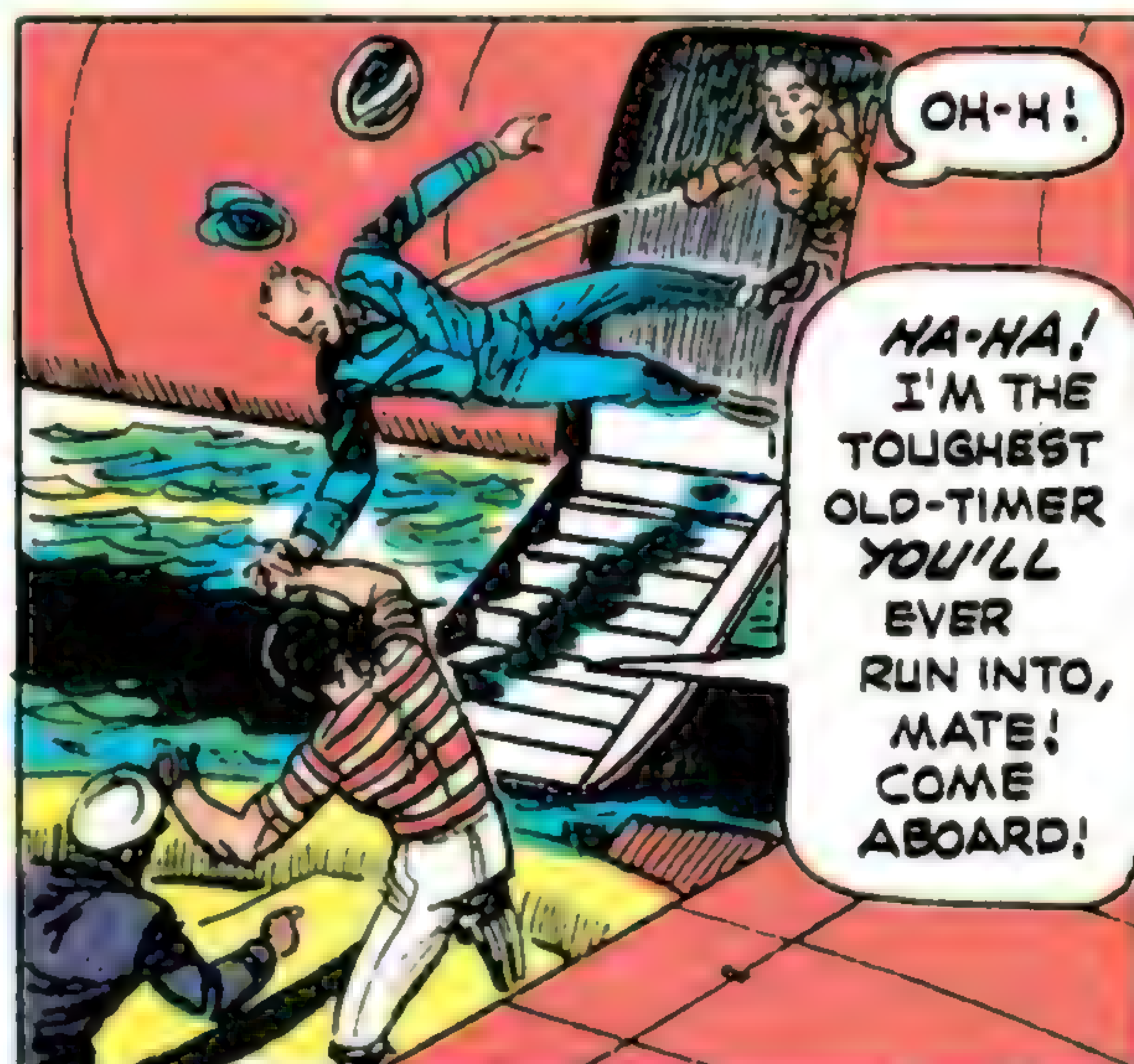
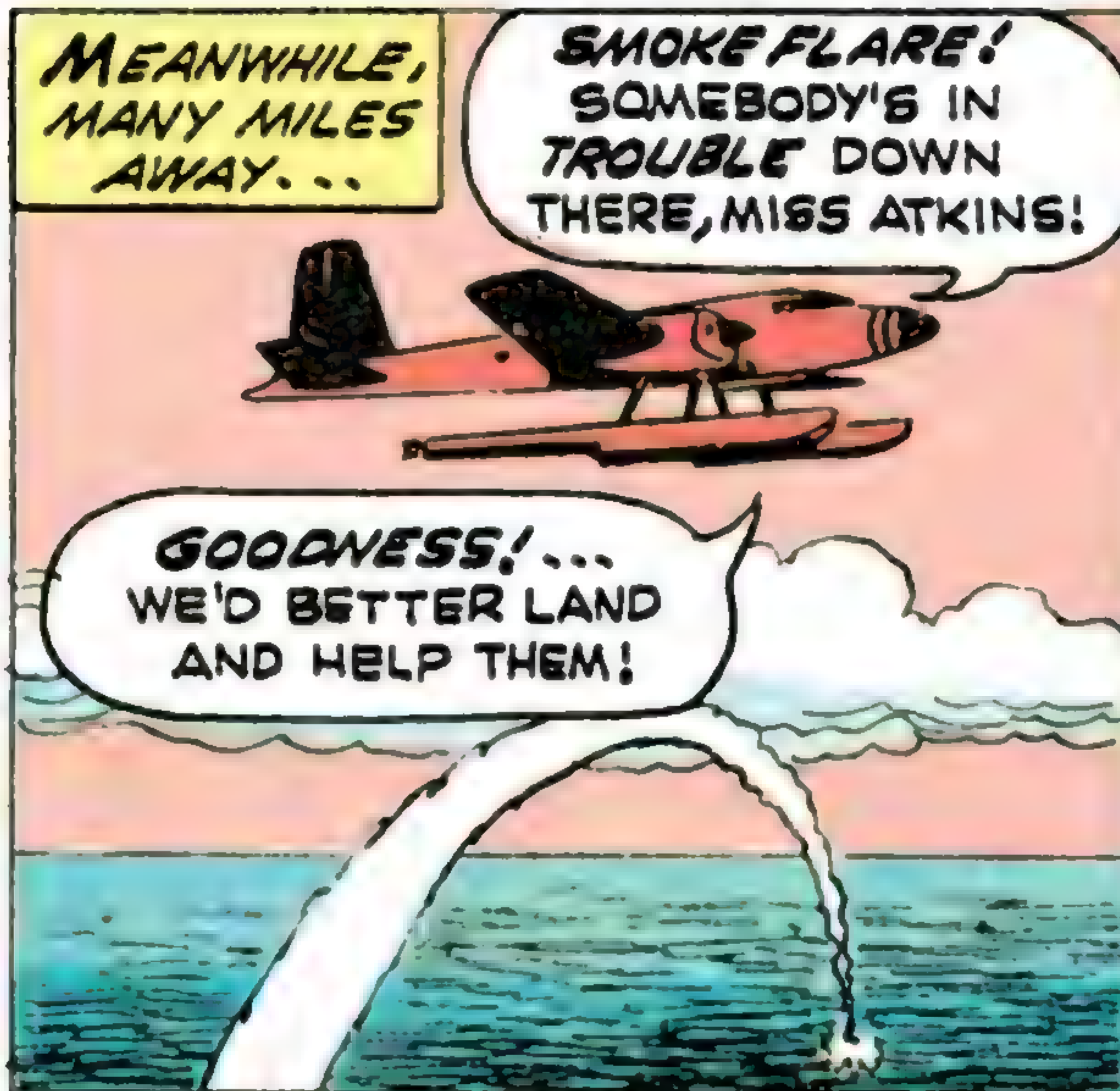
DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE THE
MESSAGE ROLLS... PASSED ON
BY THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY
POISON PEOPLE, TO...

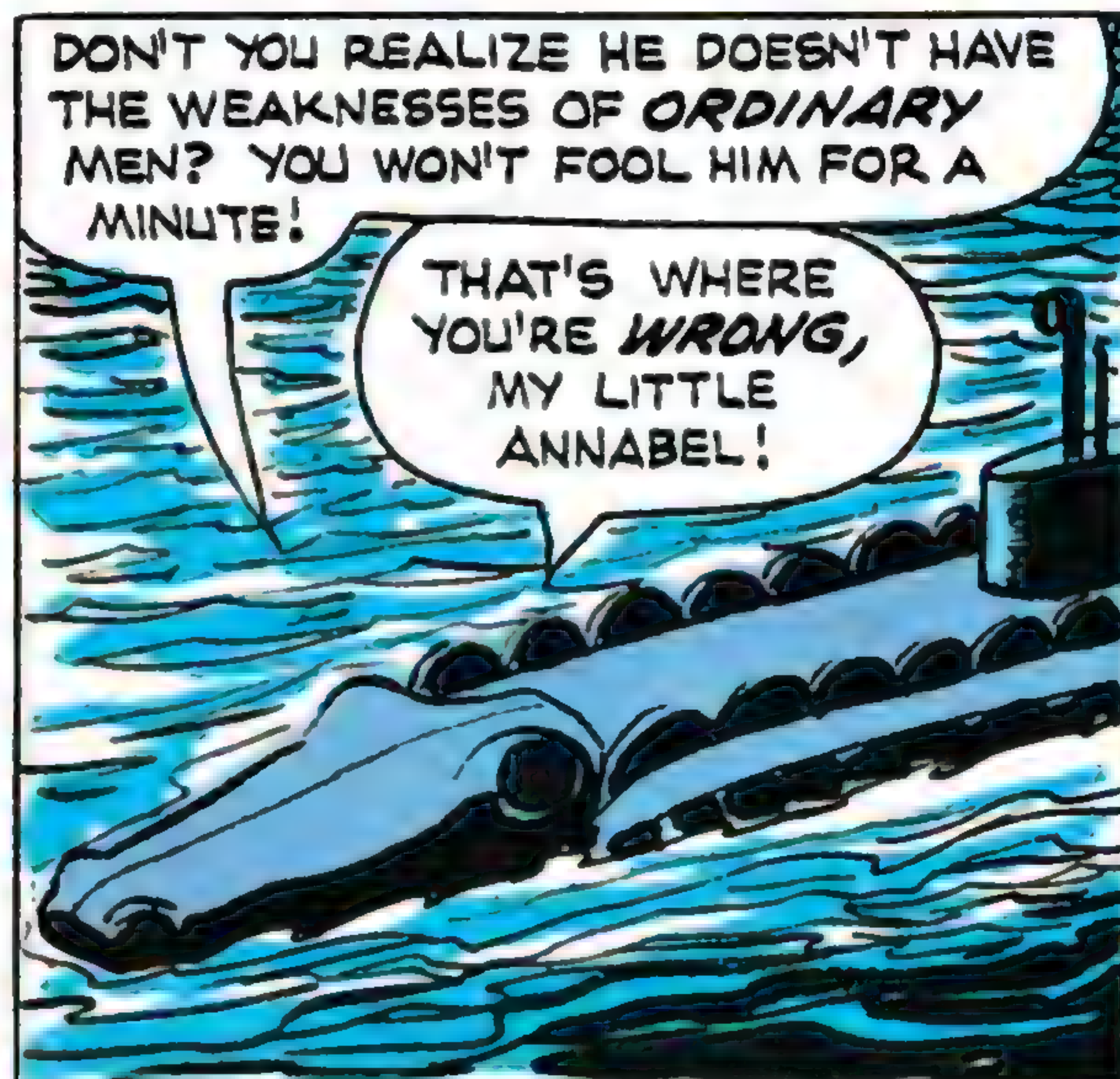
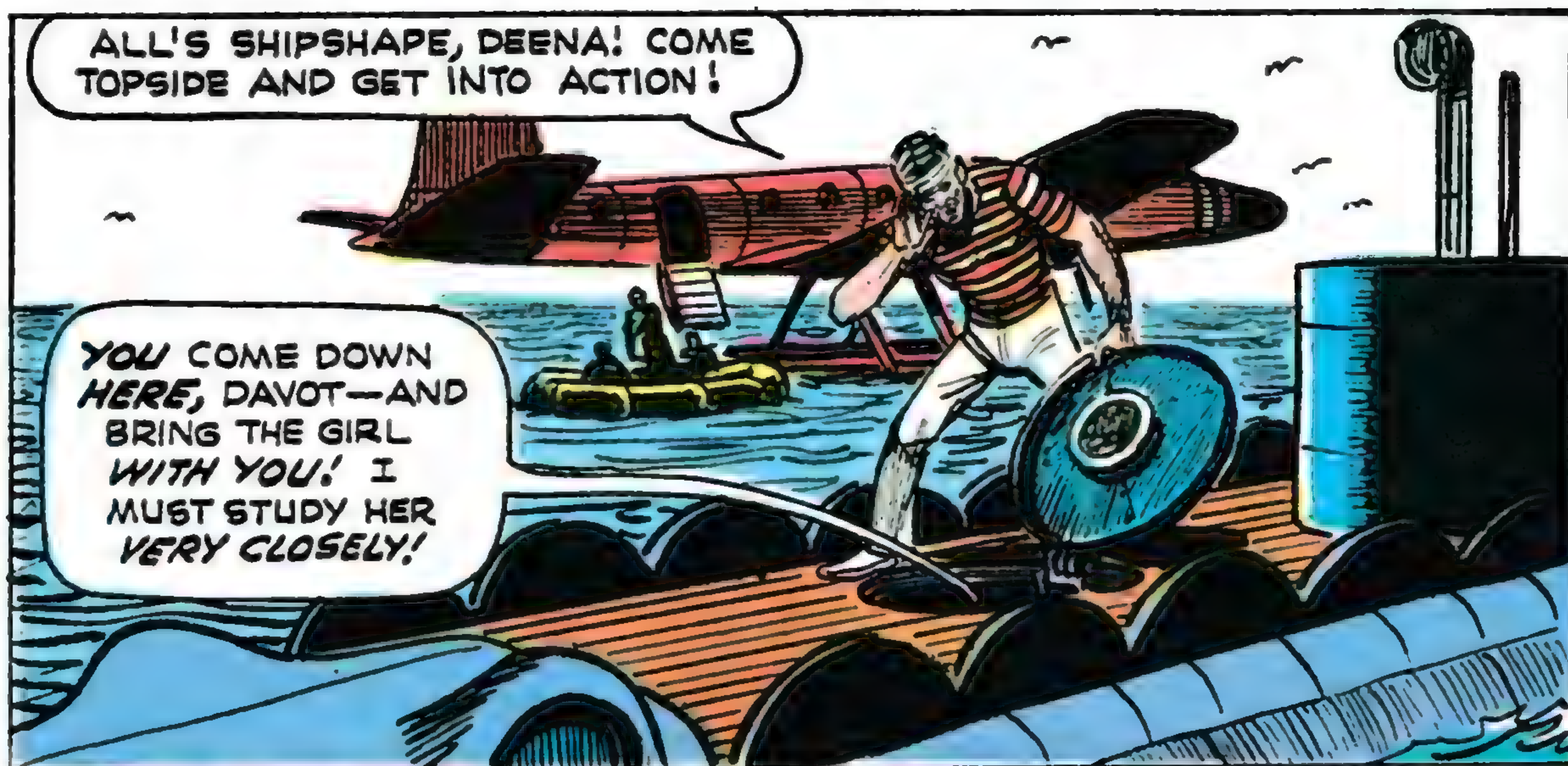


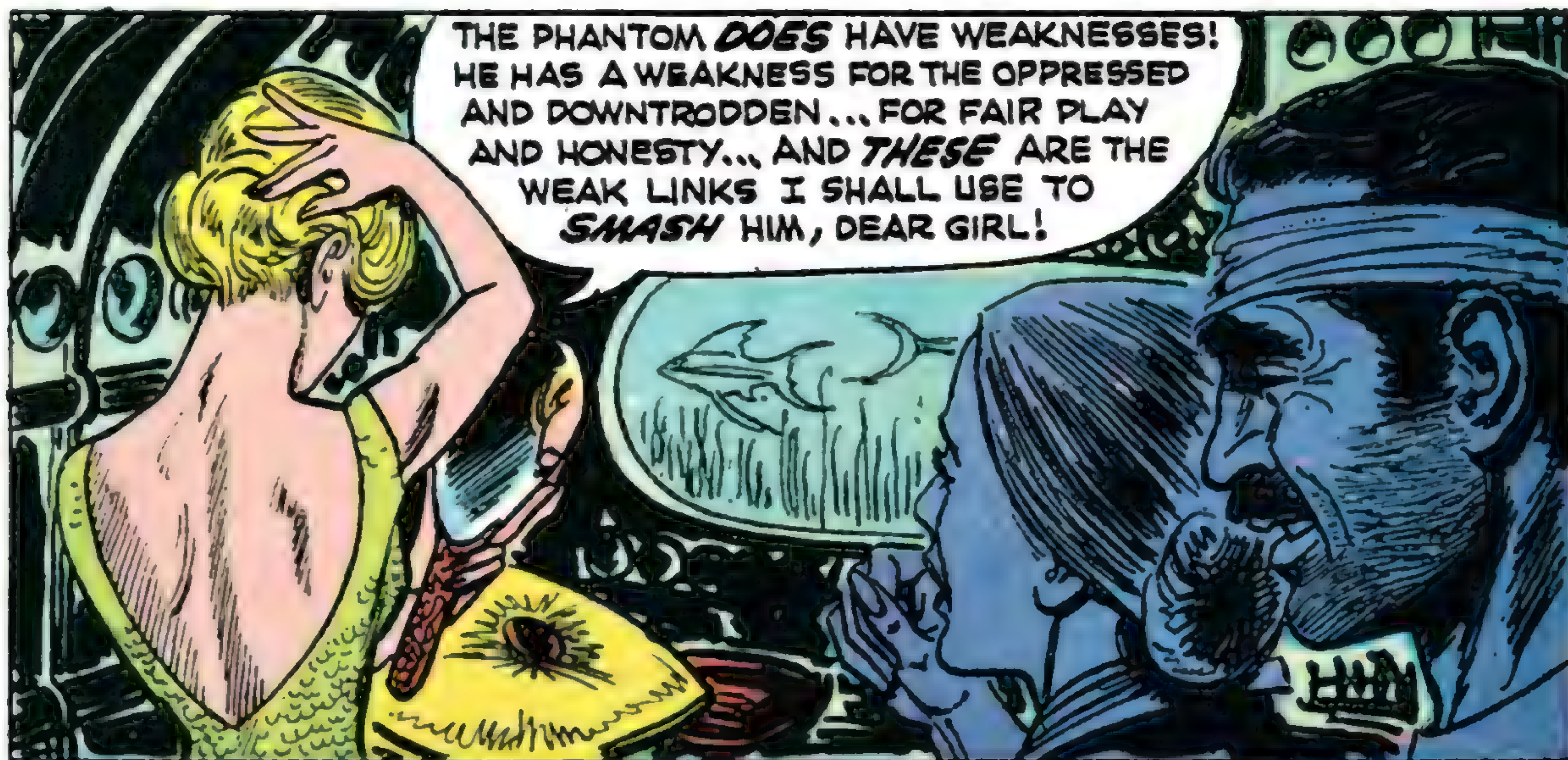
...THE FABULOUS SKULL
THRONE, AND THE LEGENDARY
GHOST WHO WALKS.

THE PEOPLE FROM THE CORPS ARE
SPREADING OUT TO ALL PARTS OF THE
WORLD! THEY'LL BE GOOD FOR THE
BENGALI NATIVES, GURAN!

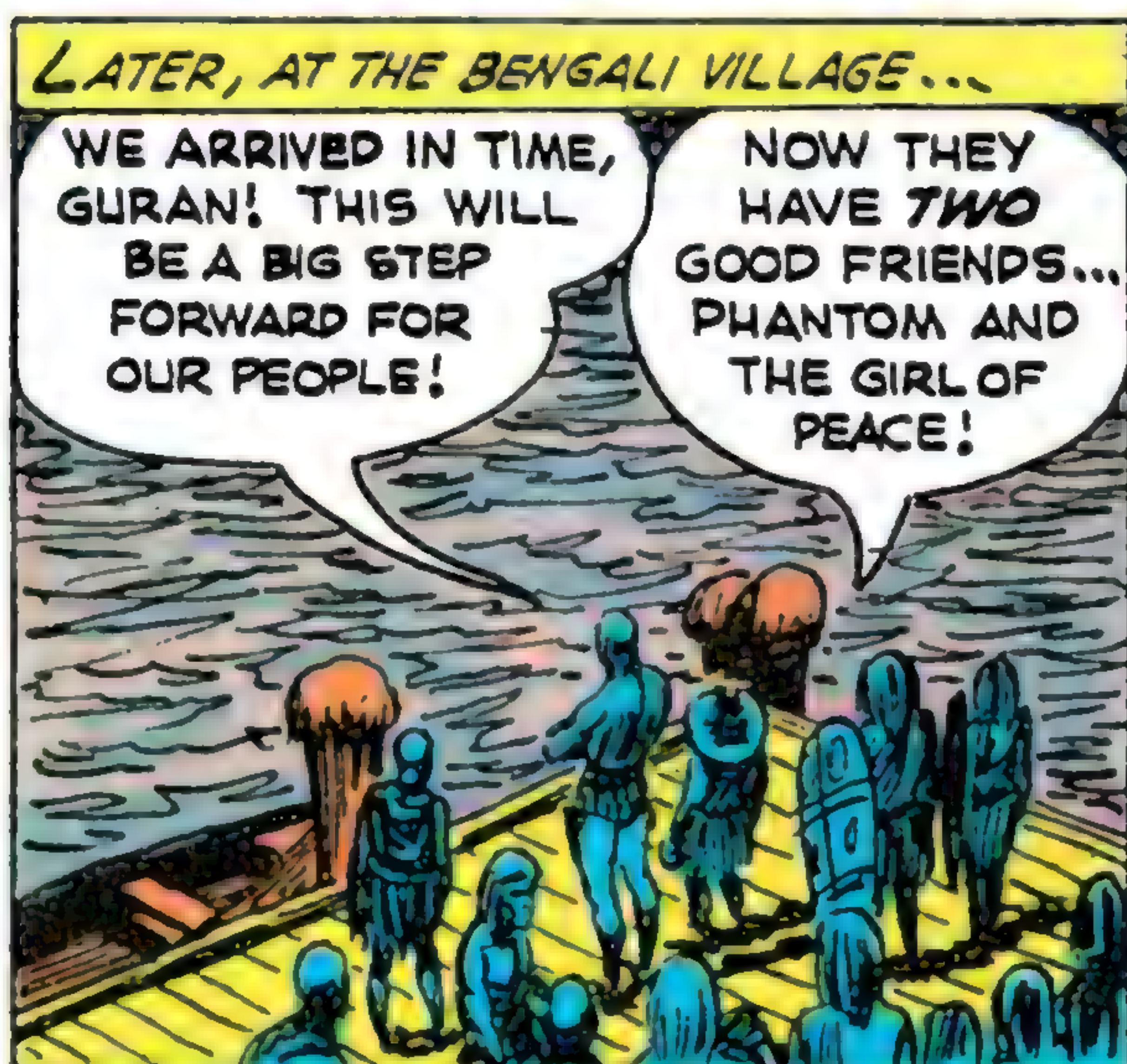








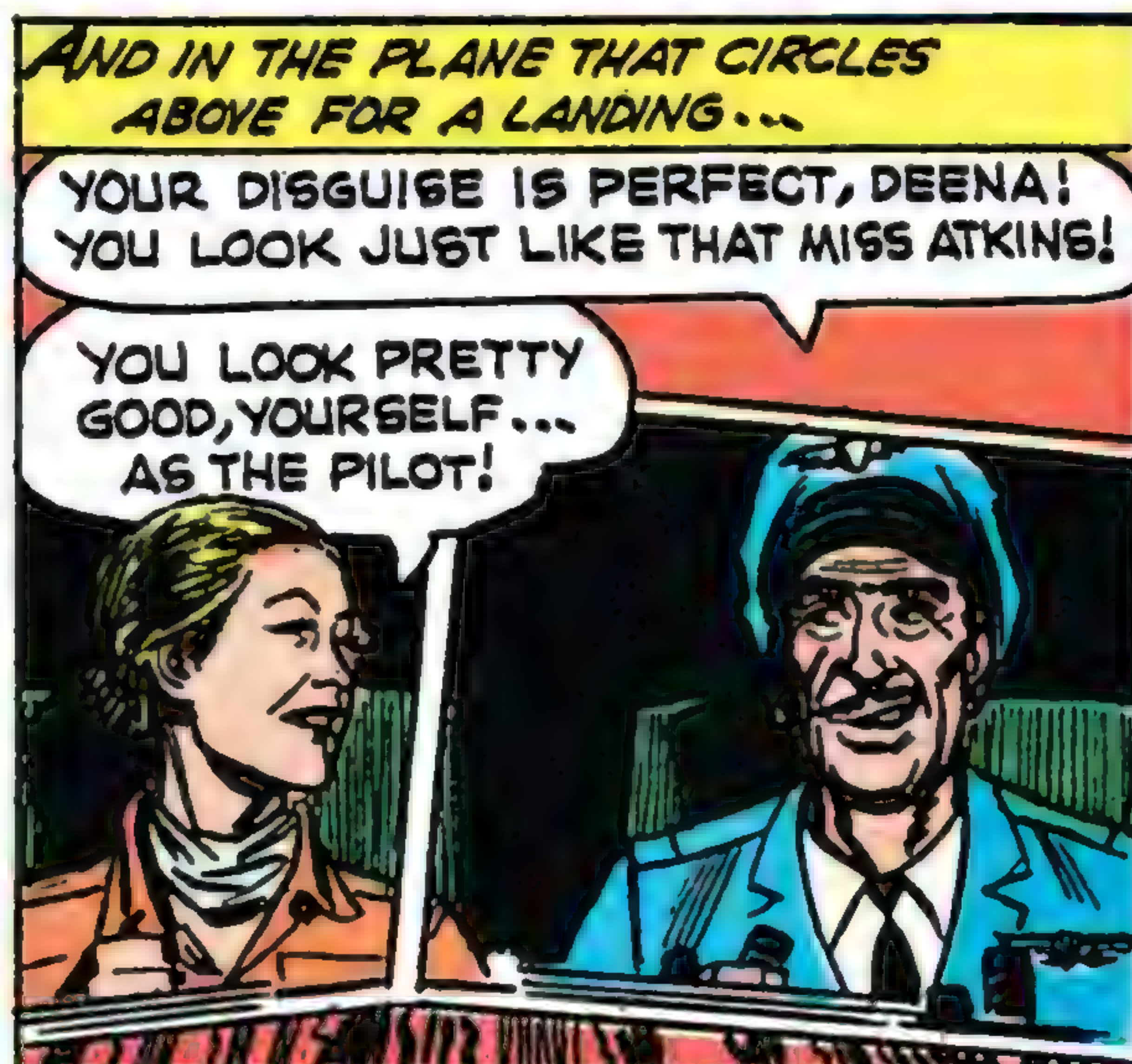
THE PHANTOM **DOES** HAVE WEAKNESSES! HE HAS A WEAKNESS FOR THE OPPRESSED AND DOWNTRODDEN... FOR FAIR PLAY AND HONESTY... AND **THESE** ARE THE WEAK LINKS I SHALL USE TO **SMASH** HIM, DEAR GIRL!



LATER, AT THE BENGALI VILLAGE...

WE ARRIVED IN TIME, GURAN! THIS WILL BE A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR OUR PEOPLE!

NOW THEY HAVE **TWO** GOOD FRIENDS... PHANTOM AND THE GIRL OF PEACE!



AND IN THE PLANE THAT CIRCLES ABOVE FOR A LANDING...

YOUR DISGUISE IS PERFECT, DEENA! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT MISS ATKINS!

YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD, YOURSELF... AS THE PILOT!



...NOW, REMEMBER OUR PLANS FOR THE PHANTOM! DO IT FAST... HE CAN BE DANGEROUS TO OUR OPERATION!

DON'T WORRY, JUST DO YOUR JOB!

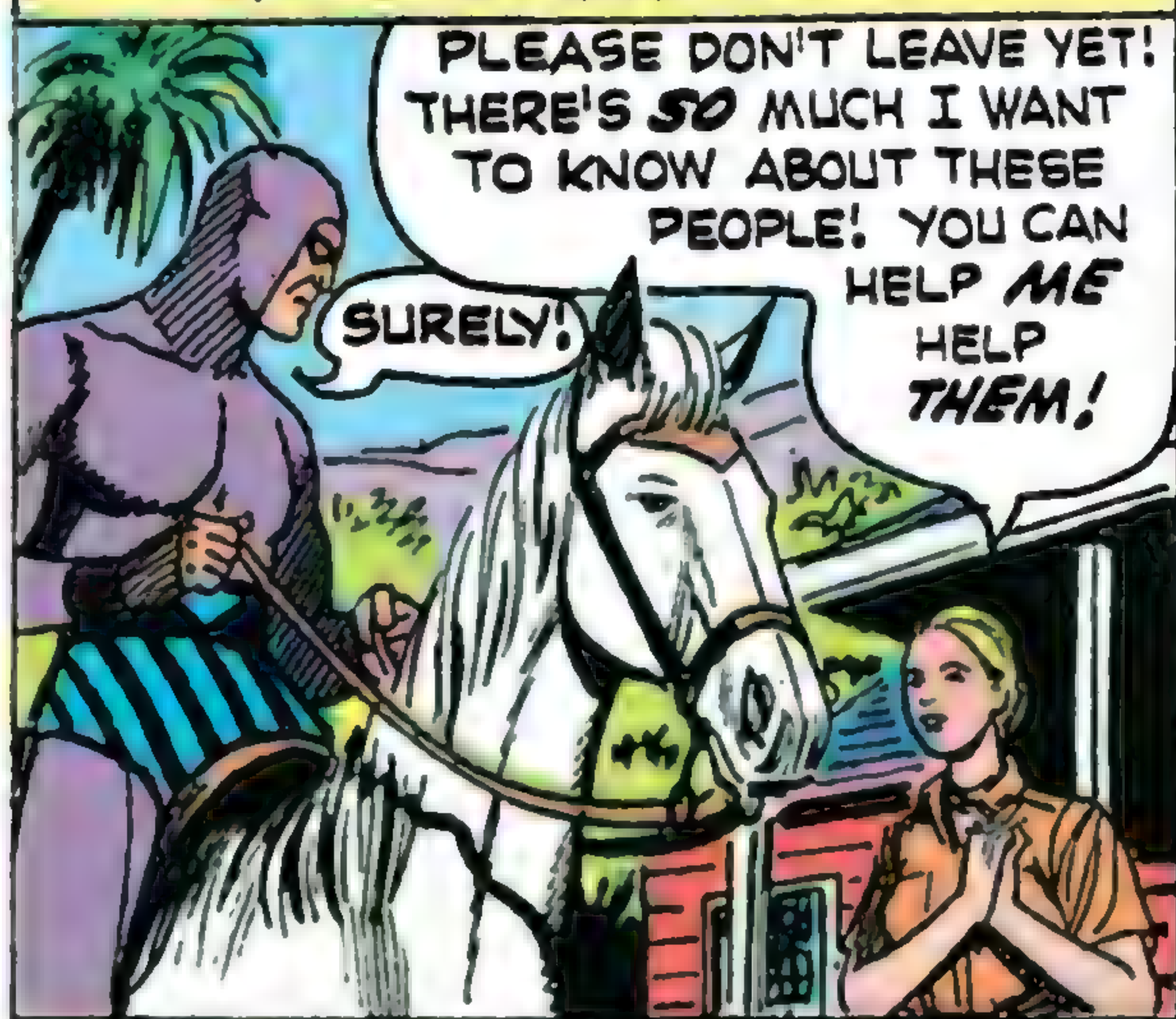


MINUTES LATER...

WELCOME, MISS ATKINS! WE'LL SEE THAT YOU ARE MADE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE!

THANK YOU, PHANTOM!

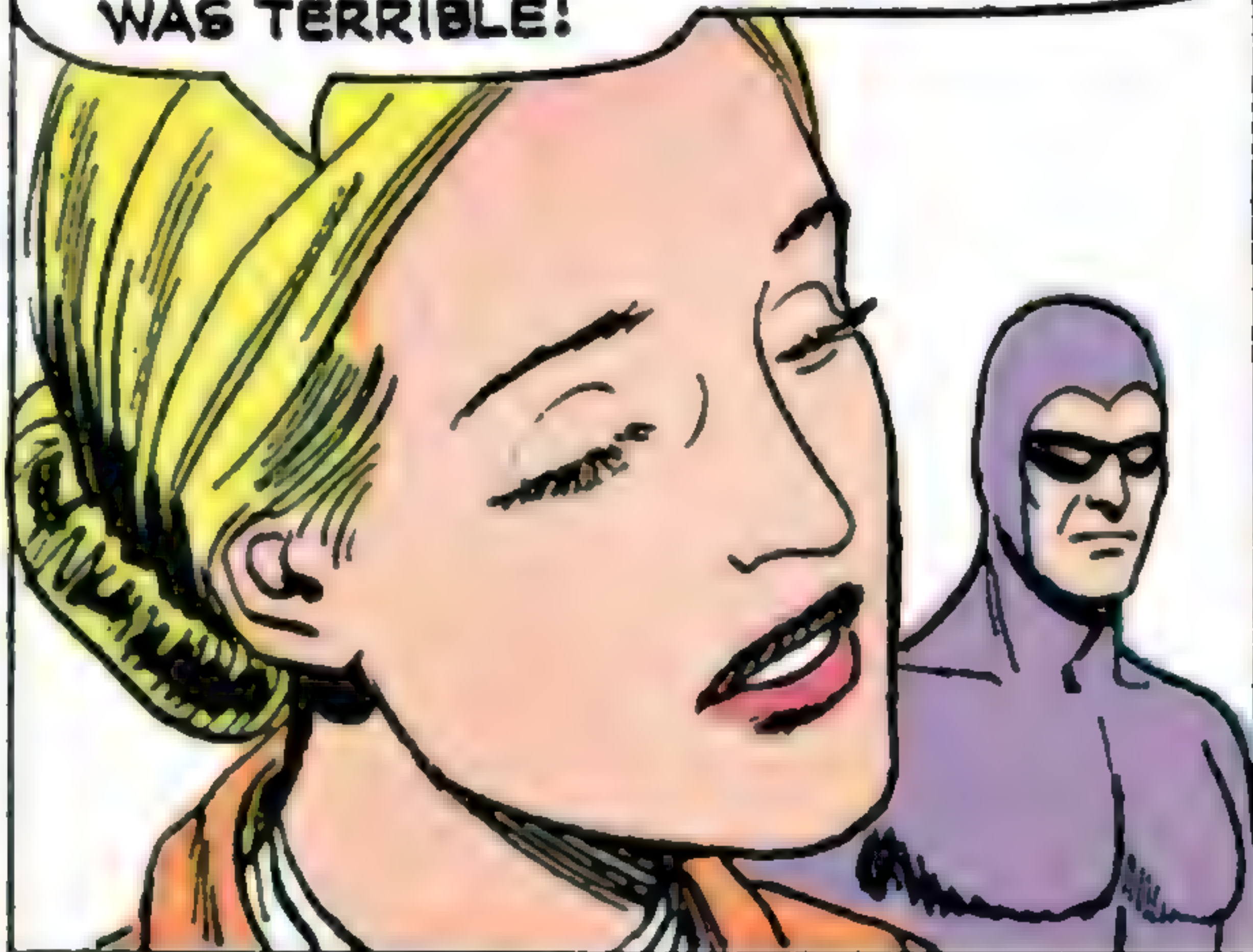
BUT WHEN THE PHANTOM SHOWS THE GIRL TO HER QUARTERS...



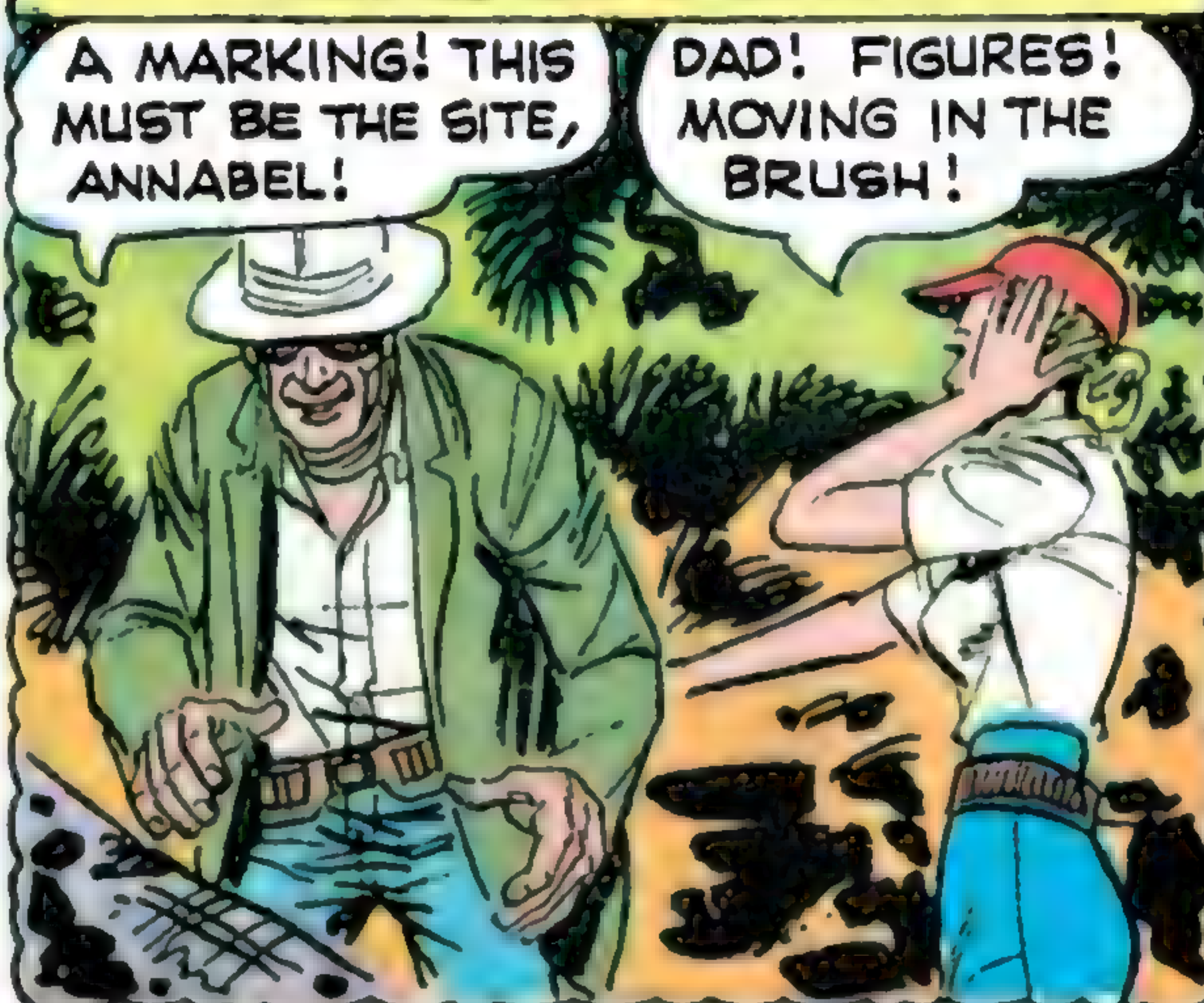
YOU KNOW, MY FATHER SPENT HIS LIFE IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE... I LIVED THERE MANY YEARS WITH HIM!



YES... AN ARCHAEOLOGIST... HE DIED SEARCHING FOR ANCIENT INCA RUINS... A-AND I WAS AT HIS SIDE! I-IT WAS TERRIBLE!



THE PHANTOM VISUALIZES DEENA'S LIES AS SHE SPEAKS...



"SUDDENLY, A RAIN OF ARROWS FELL ON US..."



"FOR AN HOUR WE HELD THEM OFF..."

I-IT'S NO *USE*, HONEY...THEY'RE TOO *MANY* FOR US...YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT *ALONE*! *HURRY*!

I- I *WON'T* LEAVE YOU, DAD!

"HE WAS INSISTENT..."

YOU *MUST* GO, ANNABEL! IF YOU DON'T THERE WILL BE NO CHANCE FOR EITHER OF US! *LEAVE*!

"I FLED INTO THE JUNGLE... SOBBING LIKE A CHILD..."

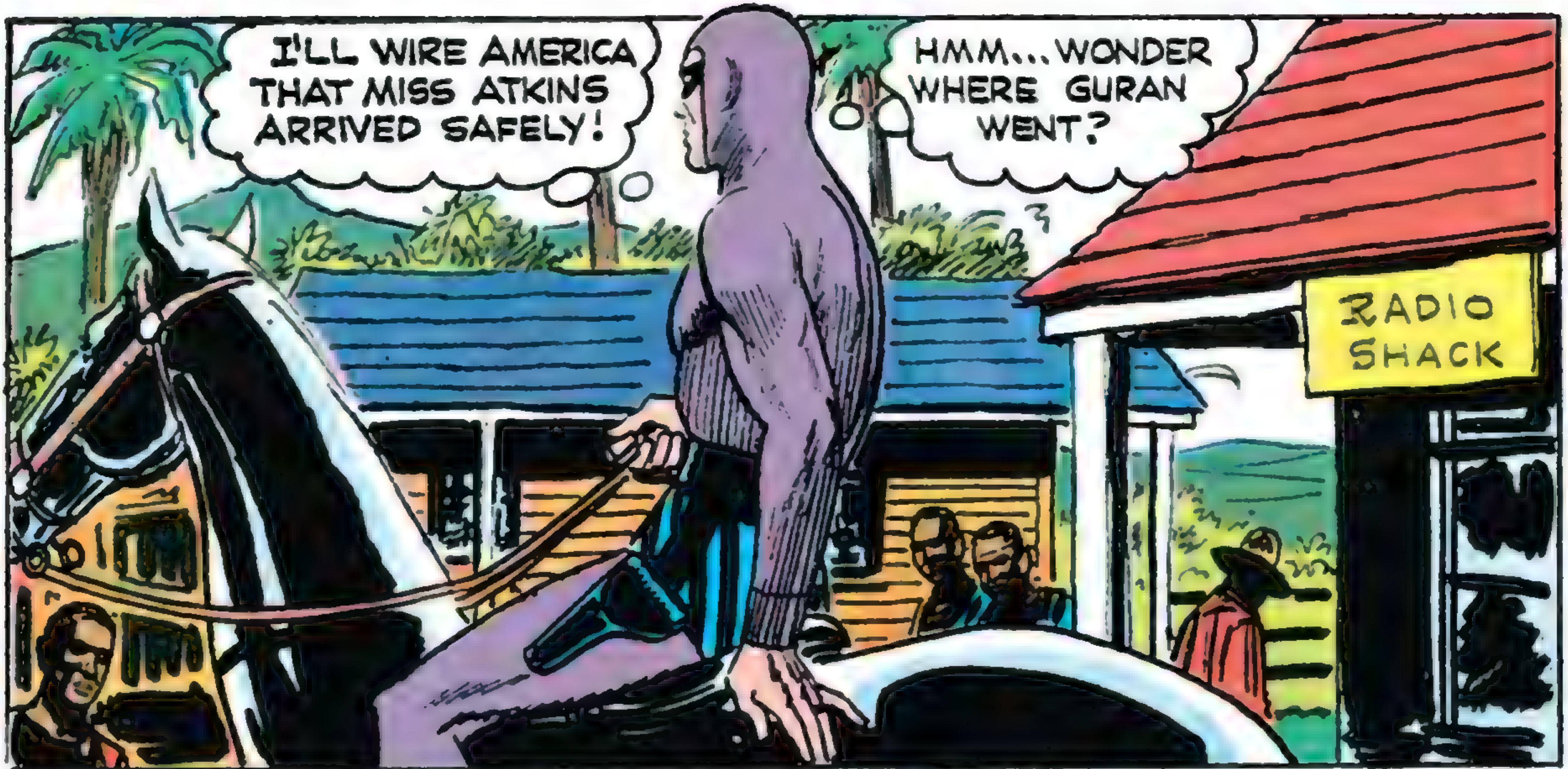
POOR DAD... (SOB!)

THAT'S THE LAST I EVER SAW OF FATHER!

I UNDERSTAND, MISS ATKINS! YOU'D BETTER REST NOW... I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW!

IT WAS EVEN *EASIER* THAN I THOUGHT... THE MIGHTY PHANTOM IS A REAL PUSH-OVER FOR A SOB STORY...

VERY *SOON* YOU'RE GOING TO BE A *RICH, RICH* GIRL, DEENA!





THE PHANTOM PLUMMETS FROM THE SADDLE AS HOT LEAD CUTS THE AIR...

THOSE ROCKS!
GOT TO TAKE COVER
BEHIND THEM...
QUICK!

BAM!
BAM!



THEY'RE KIDNAPPING GURAN... GOT TO FIGURE SOME WAY TO GET PAST THIS ONE! BEFORE THE OTHERS GET GURAN INTO THAT BOAT AND OUT OF REACH — BUT HOW?



GHOST WHO WALKS... MAN WHO CAN'T DIE... HAH-HA! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT SOON AS HE STICKS HIS HEAD OUT FROM BEHIND THOSE, HAH-HA... ROCKS!

POW!
BANG!

DIDN'T
SEE ME
CIRCLE
AROUND!

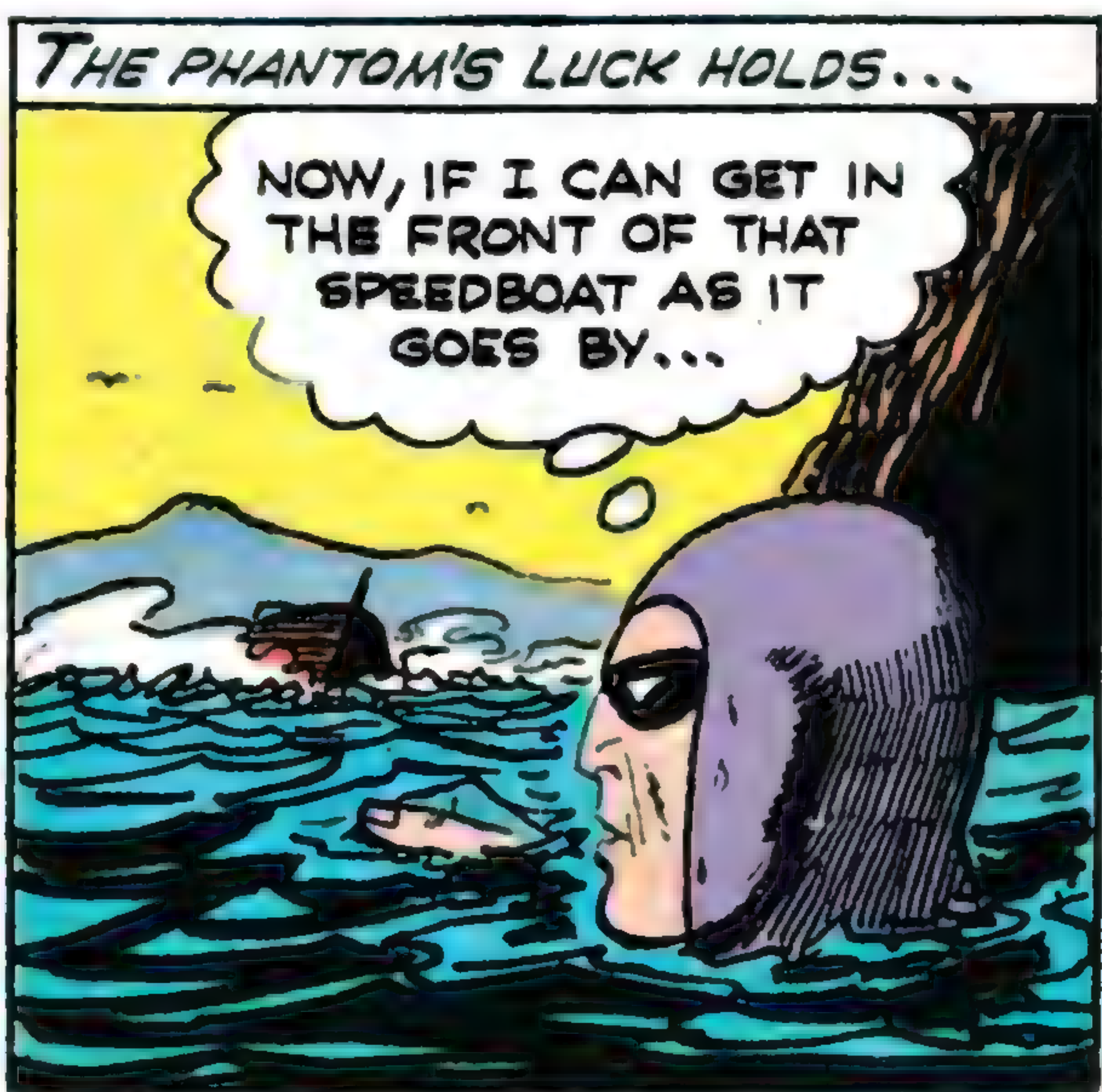
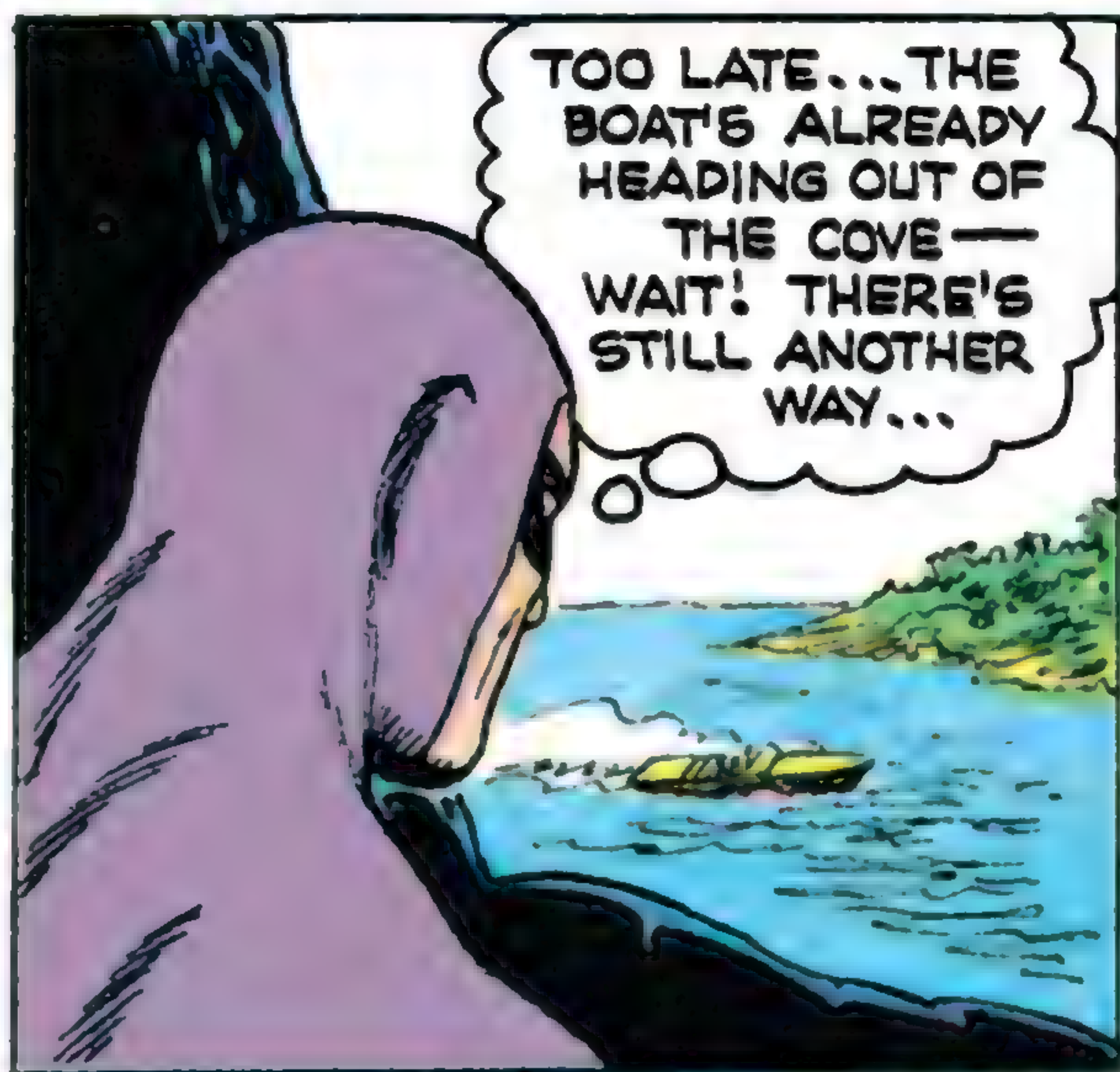


HE'S GOT ONE MORE BULLET LEFT! I'LL HAVE TO WAIT HIM OUT...



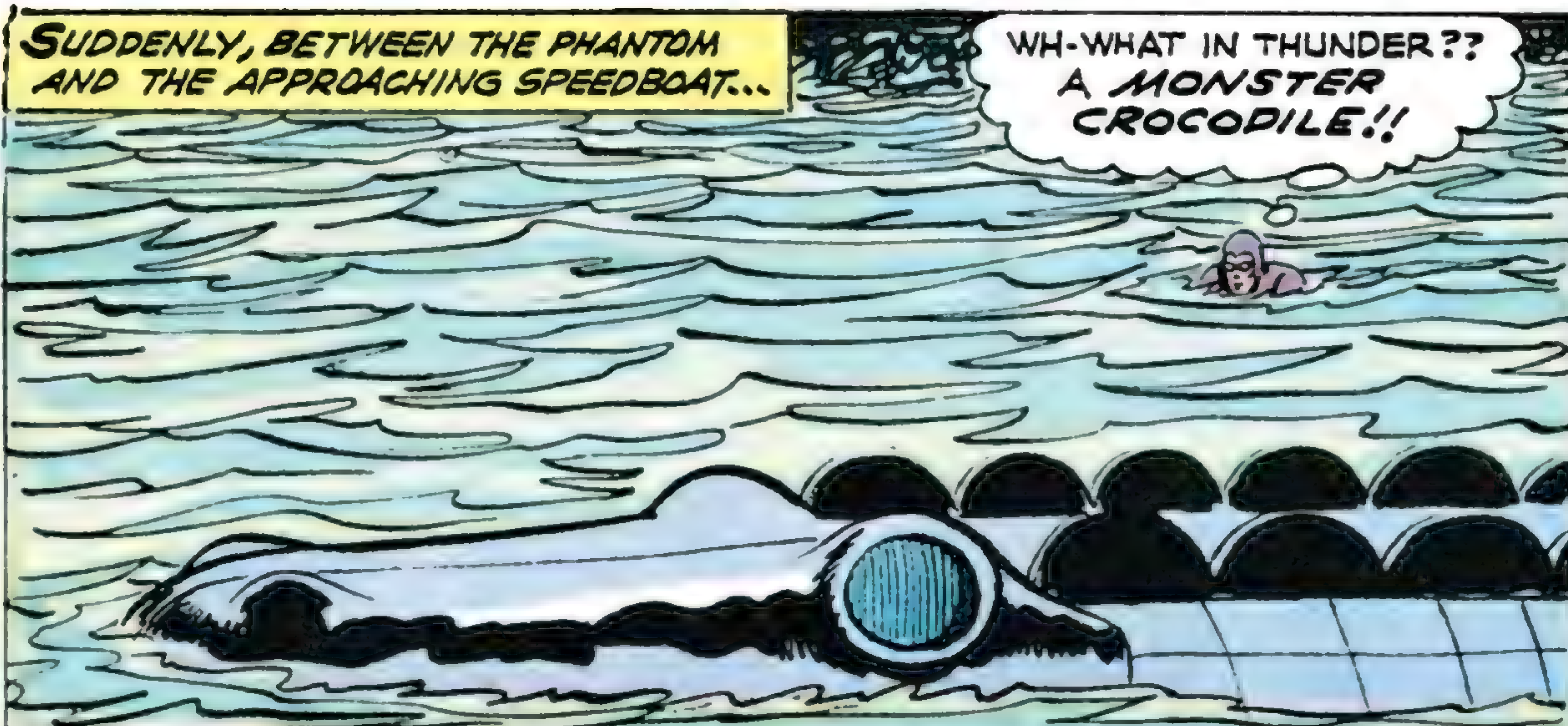
OH-OH! NO TIME TO WAIT!
IF I DON'T GO AFTER GURAN,
NOW, HE'LL BE GONE! I'VE
GOT TO GAMBLE WITH THAT
LAST BULLET!



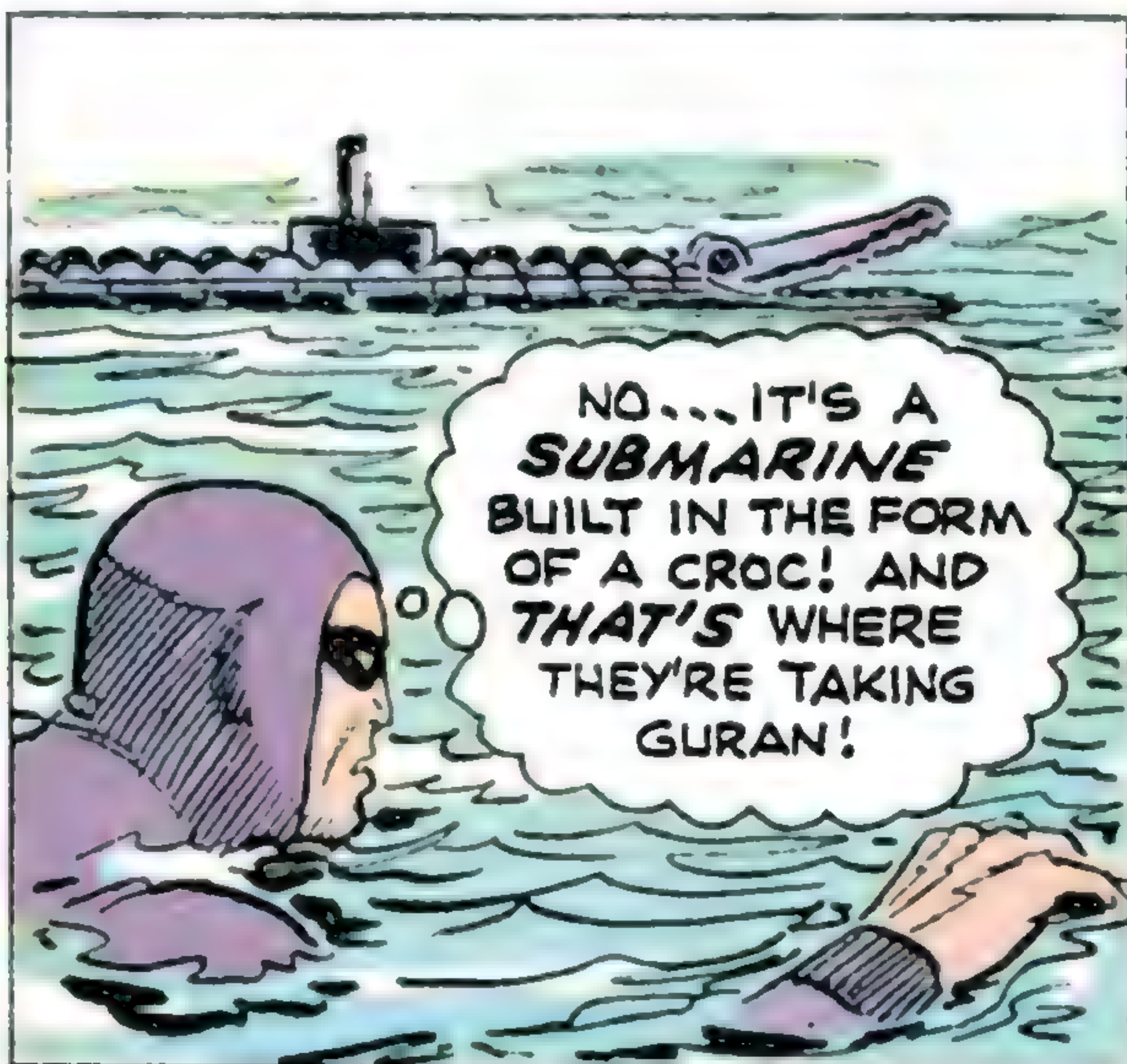


**SUDDENLY, BETWEEN THE PHANTOM
AND THE APPROACHING SPEEDBOAT...**

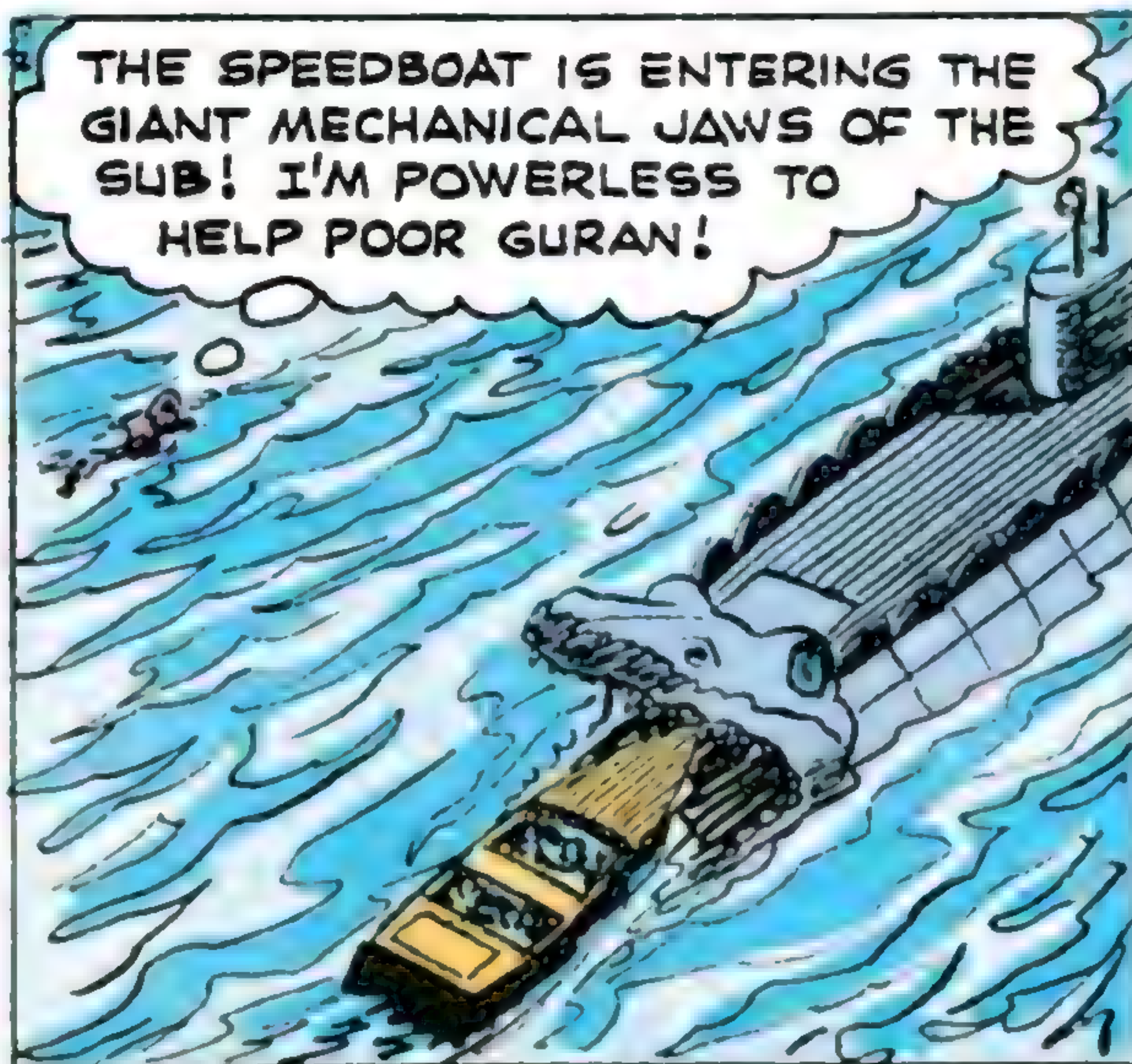
WH-WHAT IN THUNDER??
**A MONSTER
CROCODILE!!**



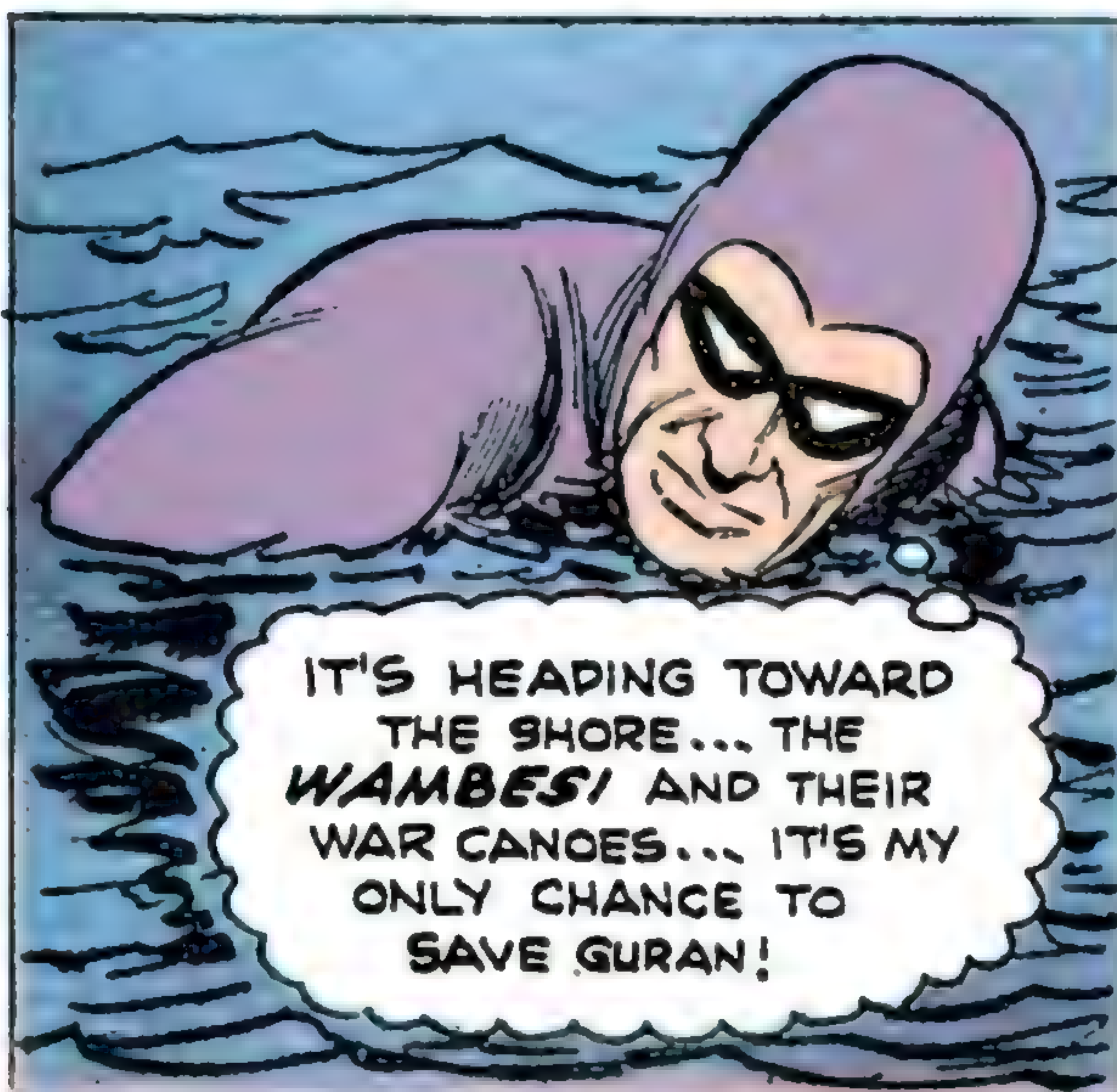
NO... IT'S A
SUBMARINE
BUILT IN THE FORM
OF A CROC! AND
THAT'S WHERE
THEY'RE TAKING
GURAN!



THE SPEEDBOAT IS ENTERING THE
GIANT MECHANICAL JAWS OF THE
SUB! I'M POWERLESS TO
HELP POOR GURAN!



IT'S HEADING TOWARD
THE SHORE... THE
WAMBESI! AND THEIR
WAR CANOES... IT'S MY
ONLY CHANCE TO
SAVE GURAN!

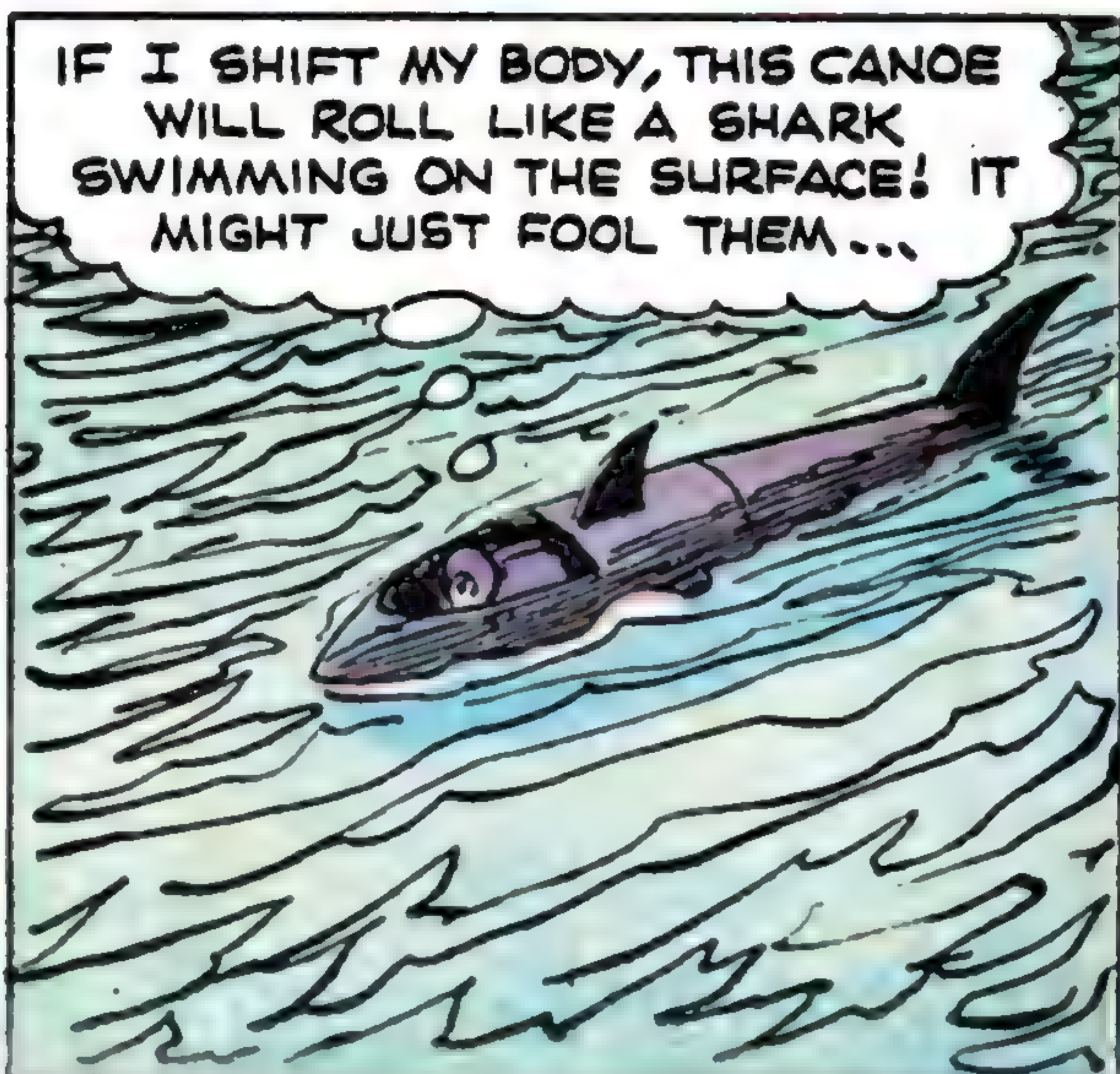
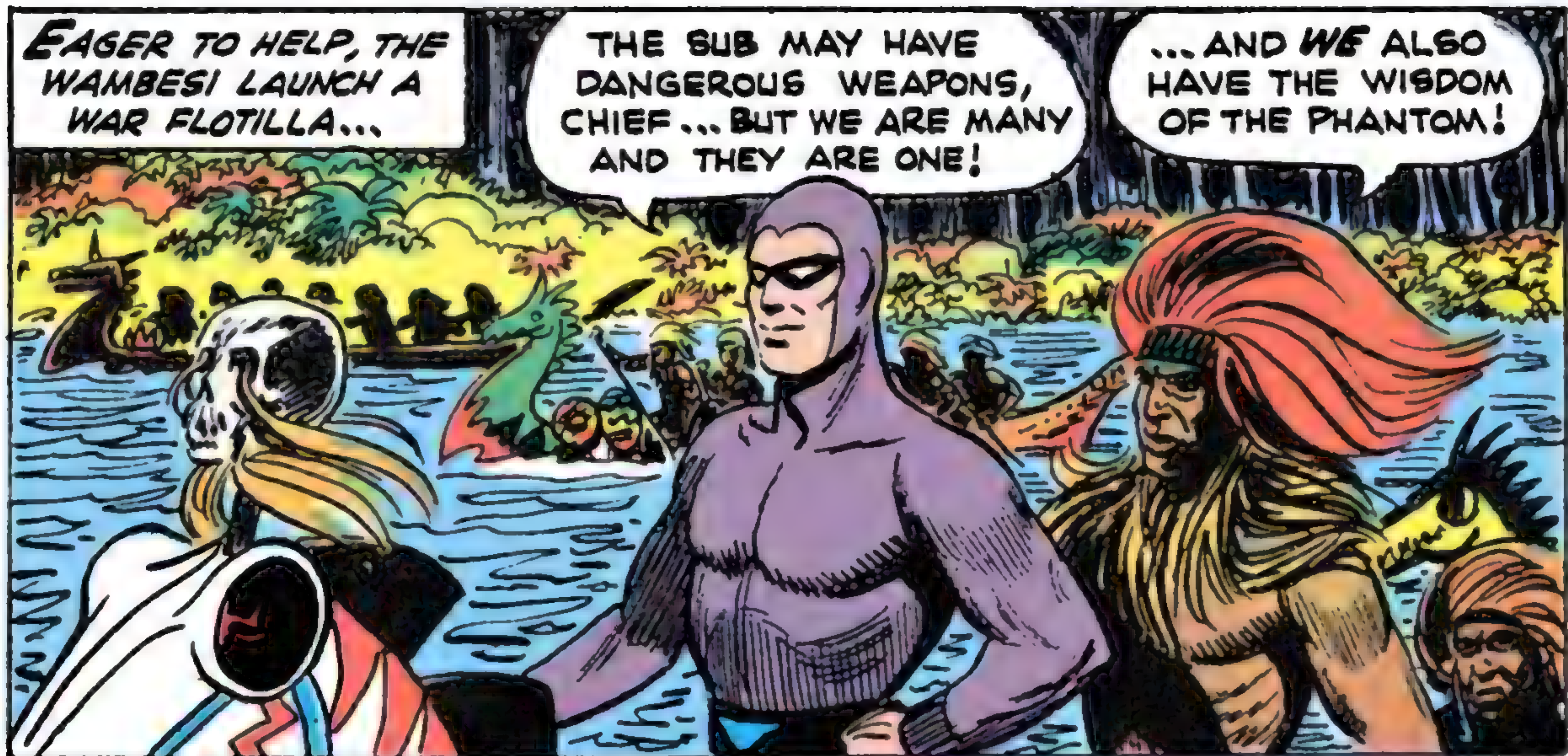


SOON JUNGLE DRUMS RING OUT...

**WAMBESI... COME
TO MOON INLET...
BRING WAR CANOES...
PHANTOM—**

POOR
GURAN!





THE PHANTOM
PART 2

THE SMILE OF DEATH

ON AN OVERTURNED CANOE, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO CLOSE IN ON A STRANGE SUBMARINE WHERE GURAN IS HELD CAPTIVE!

WHAT'S THAT OUT THERE?

ALL I NEED IS A LITTLE LUCK AND I'LL BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT TO RESCUE GURAN!

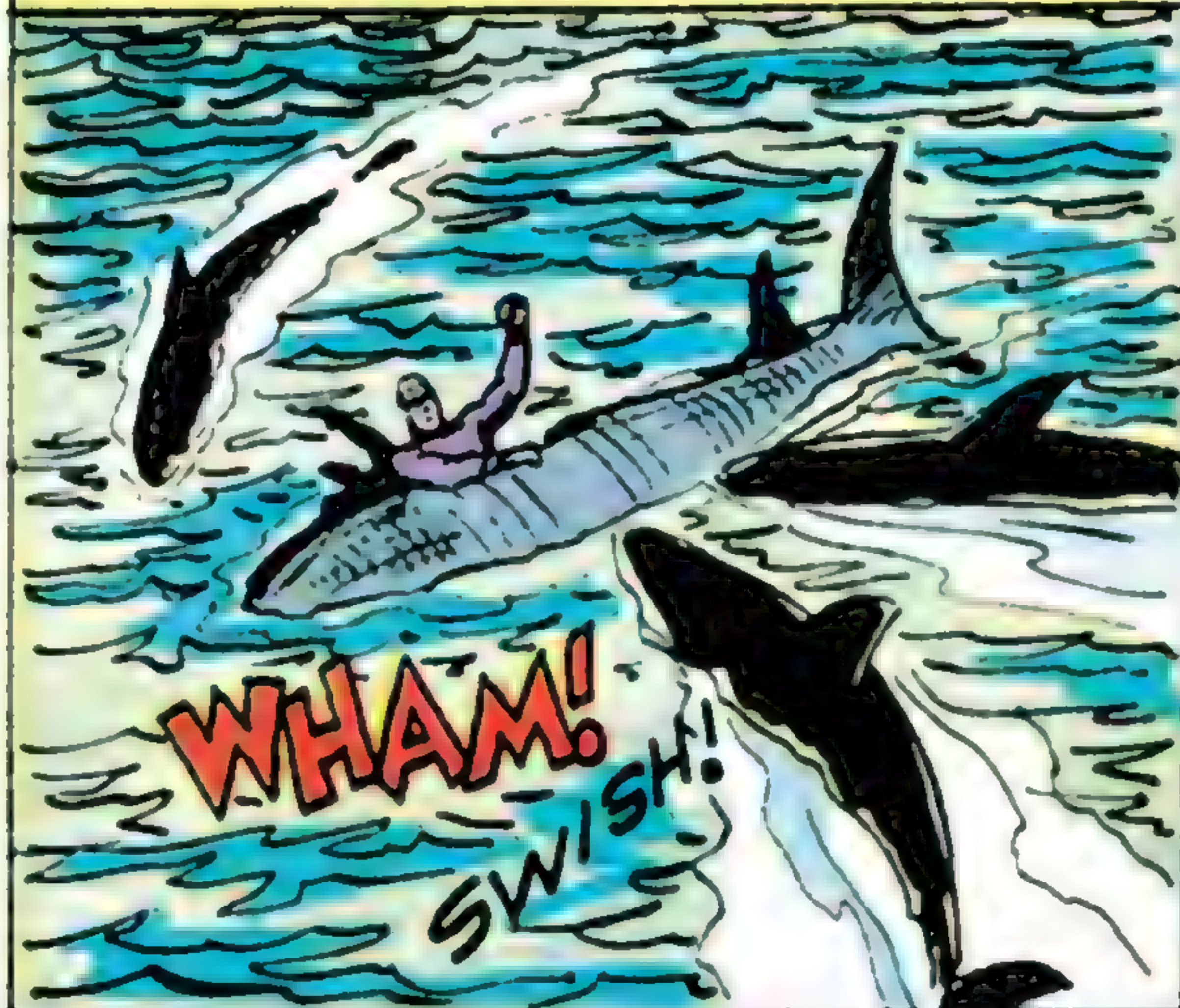
SO YOU'RE THE PHANTOM'S NATIVE PAL, EH, GURAN! WELL, YOU TWO WILL SOON BE MORTAL ENEMIES! YESSIREE! HAH-HA!

HEY! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, DAVOT... THERE'S A GIANT SHARK WALLOWING THROUGH THE WATER DEAD AHEAD... COME SEE!

ALMOST THERE! IF I CAN GLIP OVER THE SIDE AND GET ABOARD BEFORE THEY SEE ME ... WHA-?

SHARKS—
HEADED
THIS WAY!

KNIFING THROUGH THE WATER, THE RAZOR-TOOTHED SHARKS ATTACK...



...AND ON THE DECK OF THE SUB...



WOW! THAT'LL SOLVE OUR PROBLEM, DAVOT! WHEN THE SHARKS KNOCK THE PHANTOM OFF, WE'LL MAKE HIS NATIVE PAL LEAD US TO THEIR HIDEOUT!

FORGET IT...



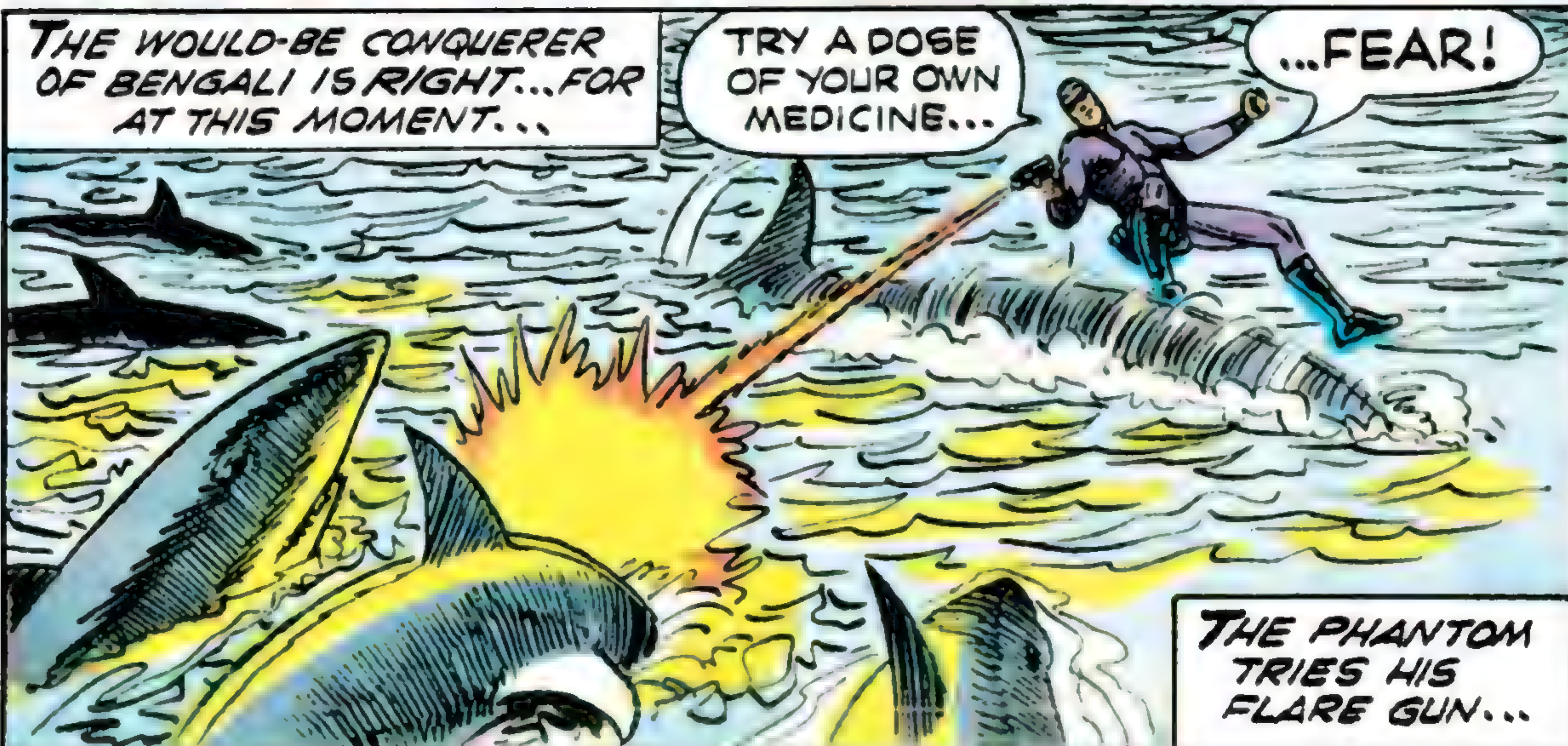
THE PHANTOM'S BEEN OUTWITTING KILLER FISH SINCE HE WAS A KID! HE'LL SCUTTLE THEIR SCALES SOMEHOW!... BETTER RADIO DEENA!



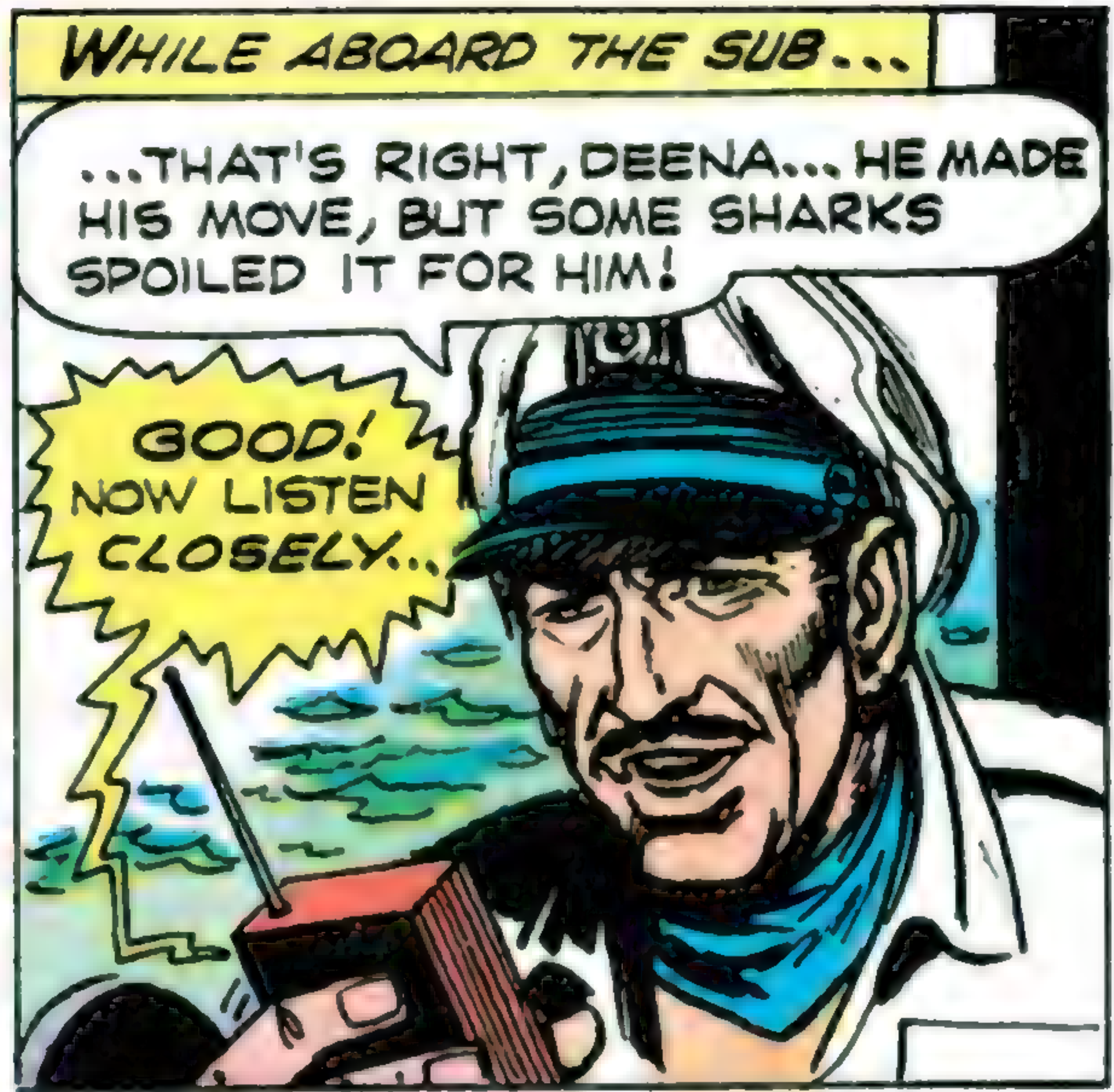
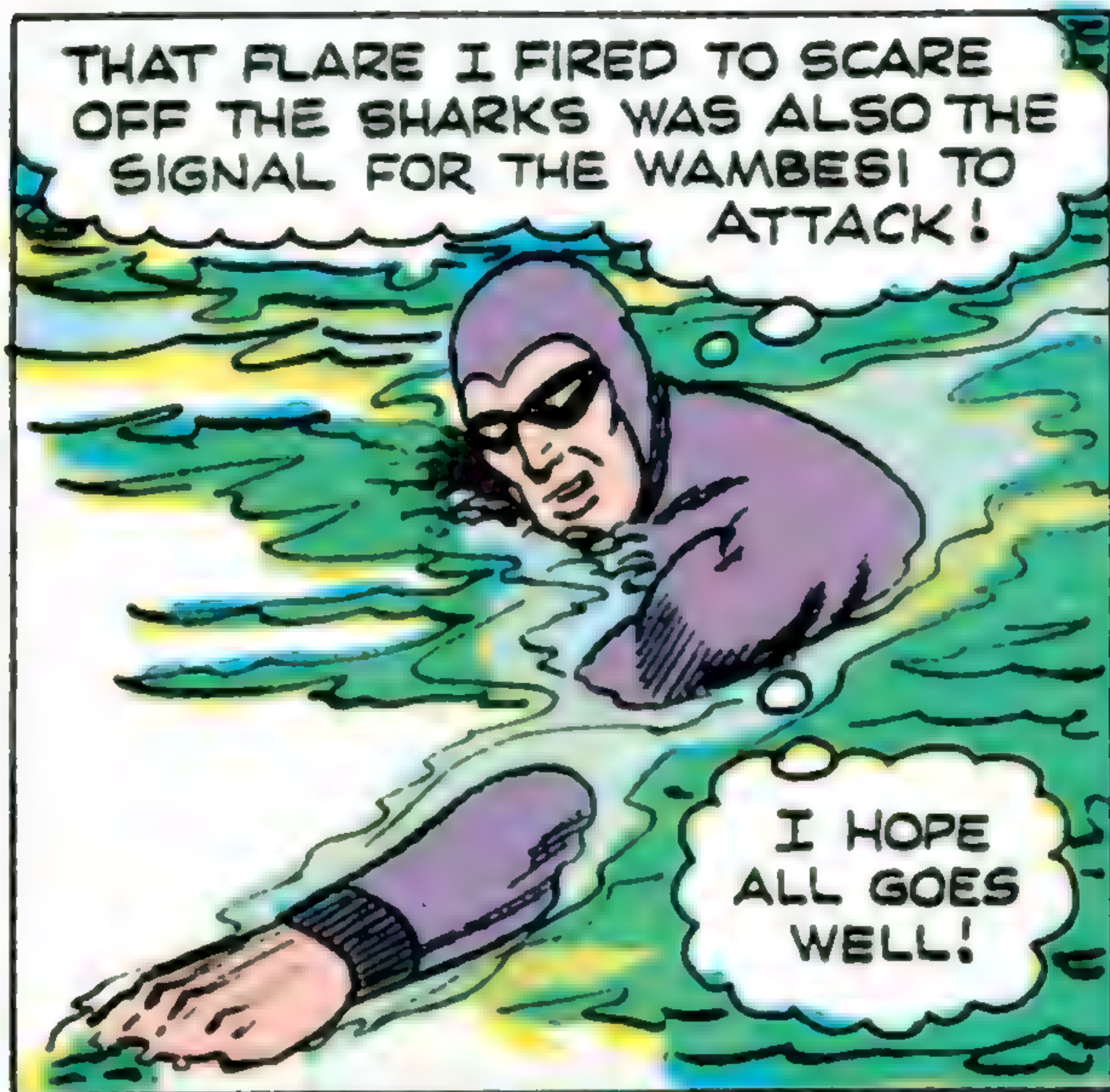
THE WOULD-BE CONQUERER OF BENGALI IS RIGHT...FOR AT THIS MOMENT...

TRY A DOSE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE...

...FEAR!



THE PHANTOM TRIES HIS FLARE GUN...



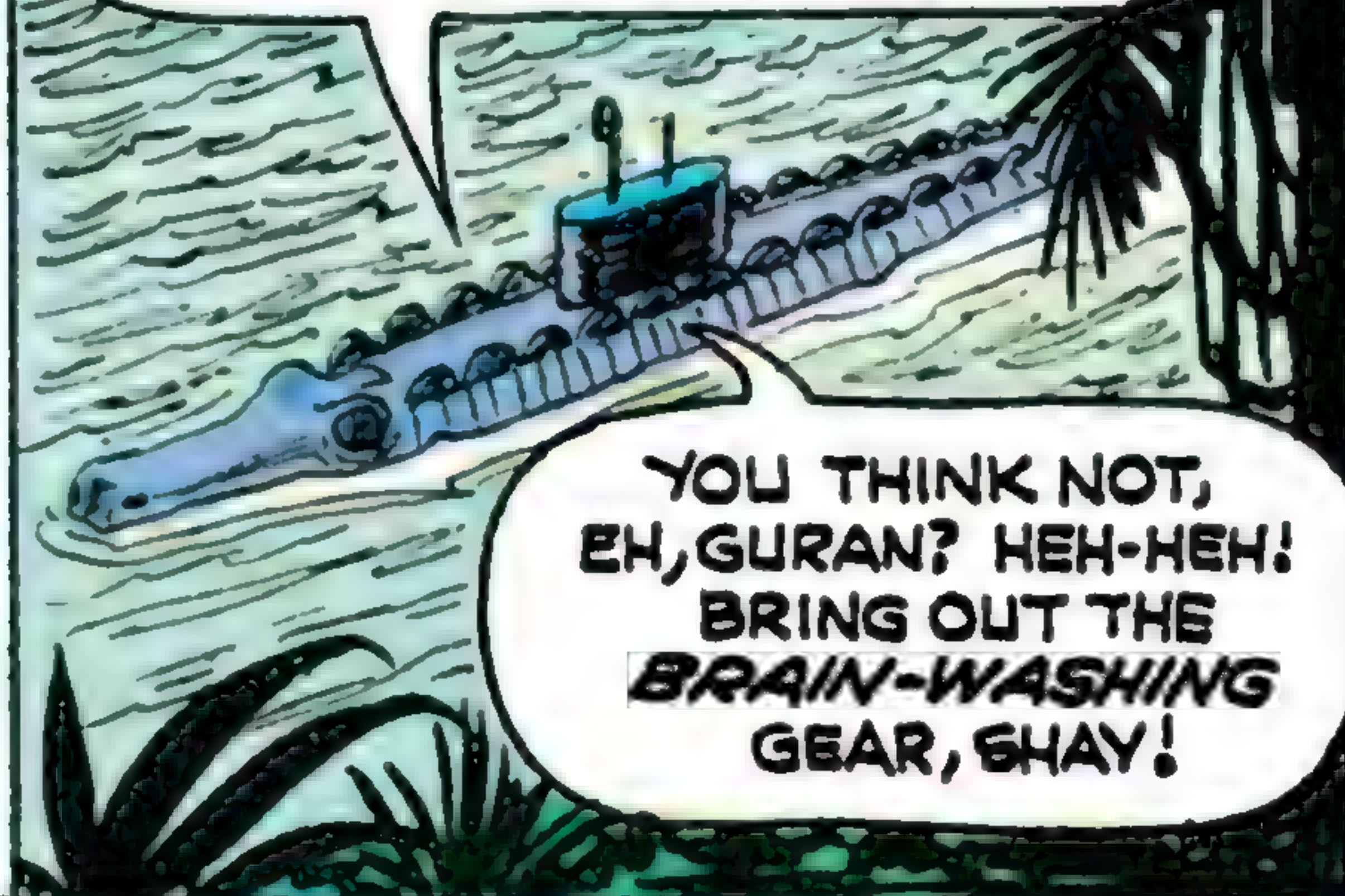
**FARTHER DOWNSTREAM, THE
WAMBESI INVASION IS A FAILURE...**

**YOU DID YOUR BEST, CHIEF! NOW
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A NEW PLAN!
WE'LL MEET HERE TOMORROW WITH
ALL THE CHIEFS!**



MEANWHILE...

**YOU MEN WASTE TIME!
I SHALL *NEVER* HELP YOU
HURT THE *GHOST WHO WALKS*!**



**YOU THINK NOT,
EH, GURAN? HEH-HEH!
BRING OUT THE
BRAIN-WASHING
GEAR, SHAY!**



**YOUR PRECIOUS PHANTOM
ISN'T THE *ONLY* SMART
CHARACTER AROUND HERE!
A FEW HOURS WITH THIS
MACHINE AND YOU'LL
BE BABBLING LIKE
A BENGALI BABY!**



**LOOK
AT US,
GURAN...
LISTEN
TO US...**

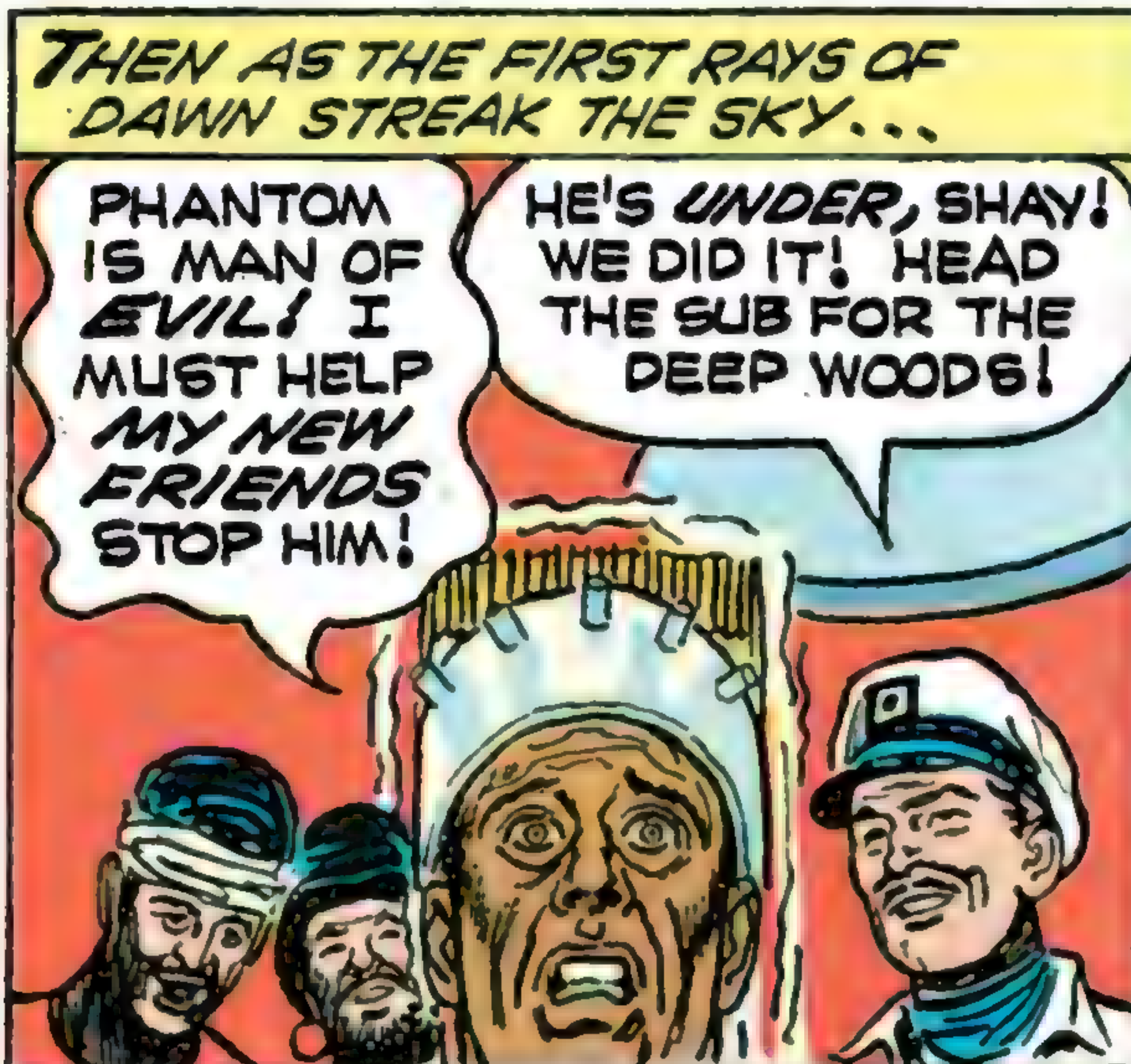


WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS,
GHAN...THE PHANTOM
IS YOUR ENEMY!

THE GHOST WHO
WALKS IS EVIL!

YOU WILL
LEAD US
TO THE
DEEP
WOODS TO
DESTROY
HIM!!

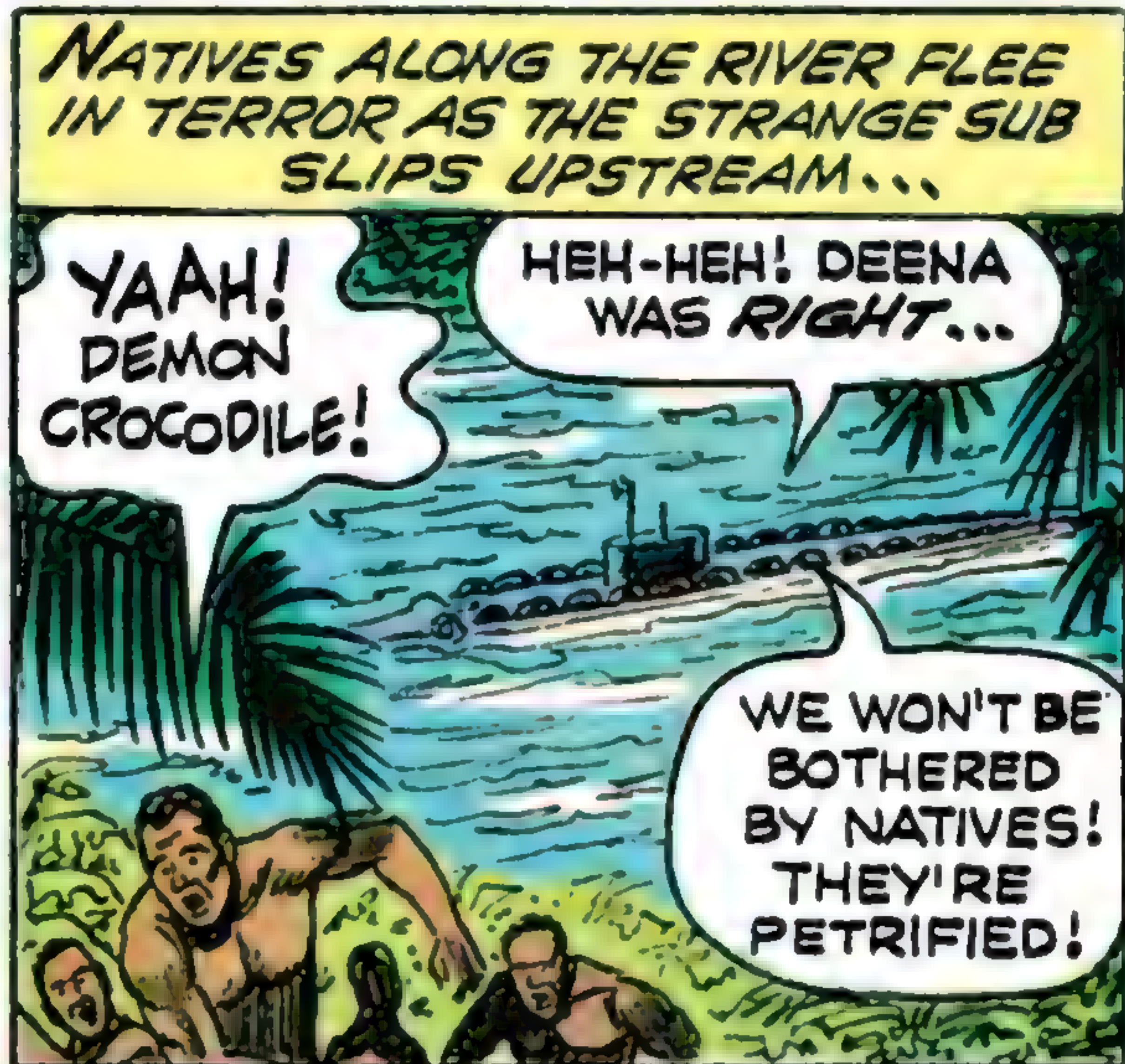
N-NO...
N-NO...



THEN AS THE FIRST RAYS OF
DAWN STREAK THE SKY...

PHANTOM
IS MAN OF
EVIL! I
MUST HELP
MY NEW
FRIENDS
STOP HIM!

HE'S UNDER, SHAY!
WE DID IT! HEAD
THE SUB FOR THE
DEEP WOODS!

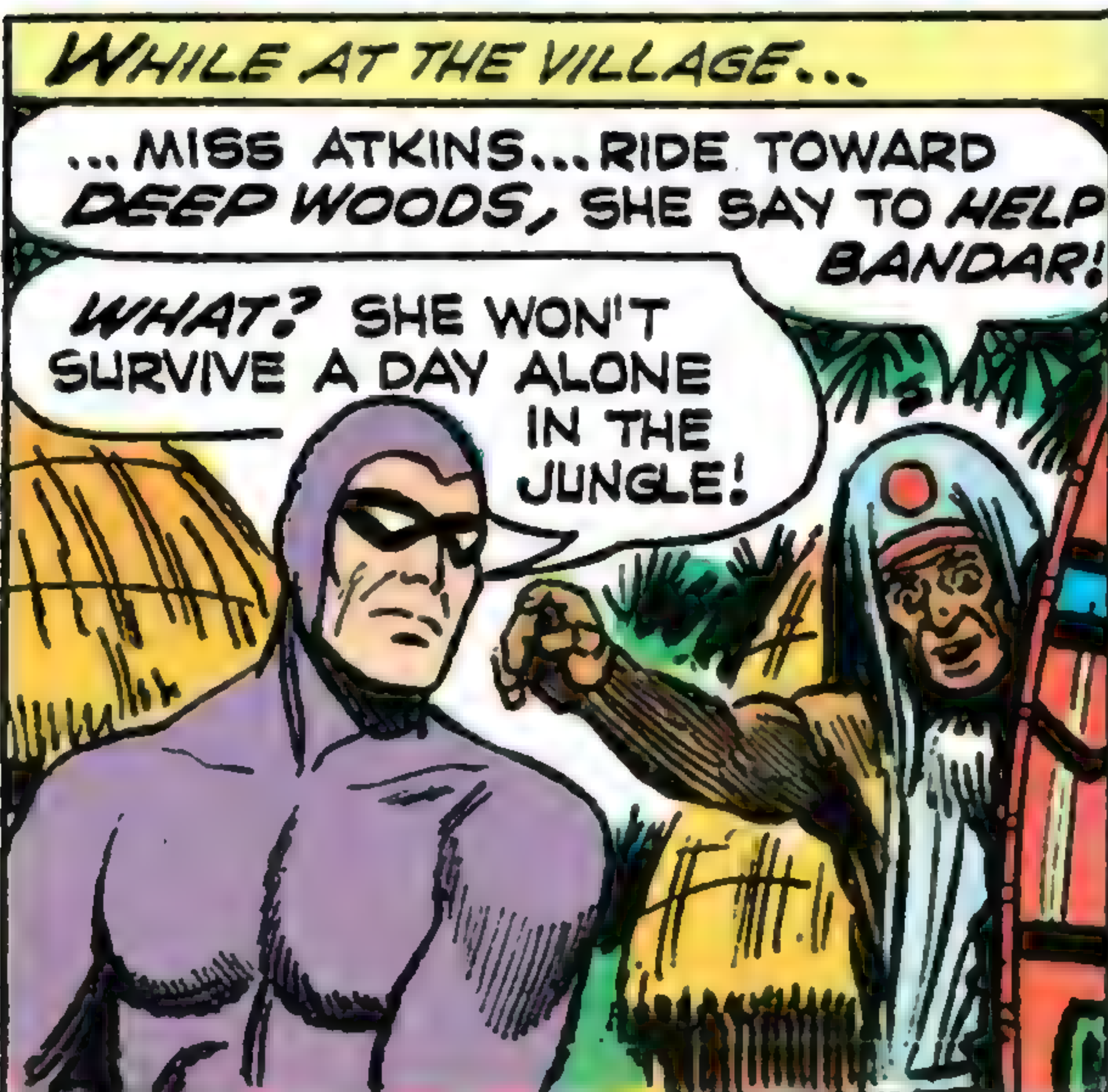


NATIVES ALONG THE RIVER FLEE
IN TERROR AS THE STRANGE SUB
SLIPS UPSTREAM...

YAAH!
DEMON
CROCODILE!

HEH-HEH! DEENA
WAS RIGHT...

WE WON'T BE
BOTHERED
BY NATIVES!
THEY'RE
PETRIFIED!



WHILE AT THE VILLAGE...

...MISS ATKINS...RIDE TOWARD
DEEP WOODS, SHE SAY TO HELP
BANDAR!

WHAT? SHE WON'T
SURVIVE A DAY ALONE
IN THE
JUNGLE!



TELL THE CHIEFS I HAVE GONE AFTER
THE GIRL... HAVE THEM WAIT HERE
UNTIL I COME BACK!

AS YOU
WISH,
PHANTOM!

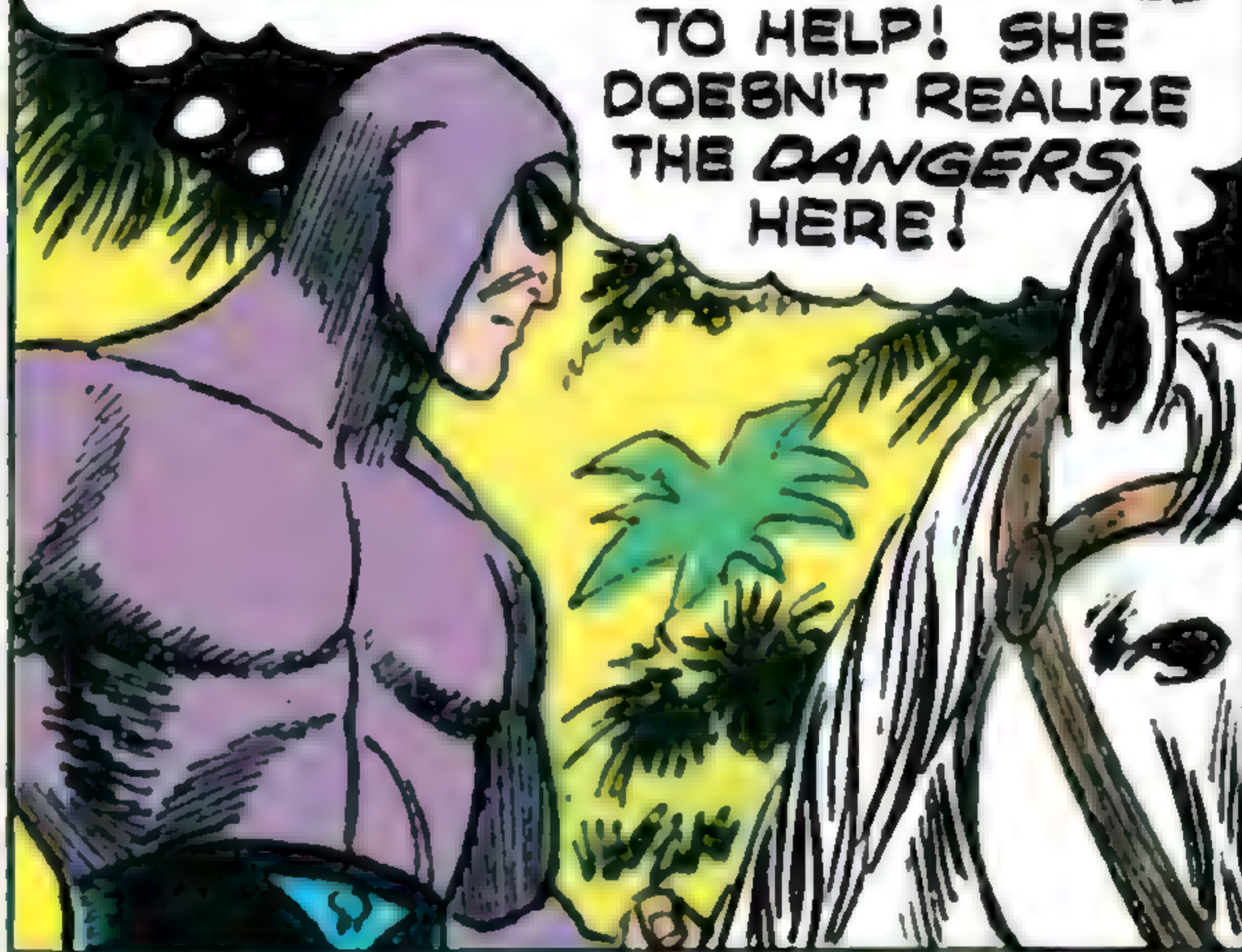
FAR AHEAD OF THE PHANTOM, ON THE TRAIL TO THE DEEP WOODS...

A CUB SCOUT COULD FOLLOW THE TRAIL I'M LEAVING! TRACK ME TO YOUR DOOM, GHOST WHO WALKS!



AND TRACK, THE PHANTOM DOES...

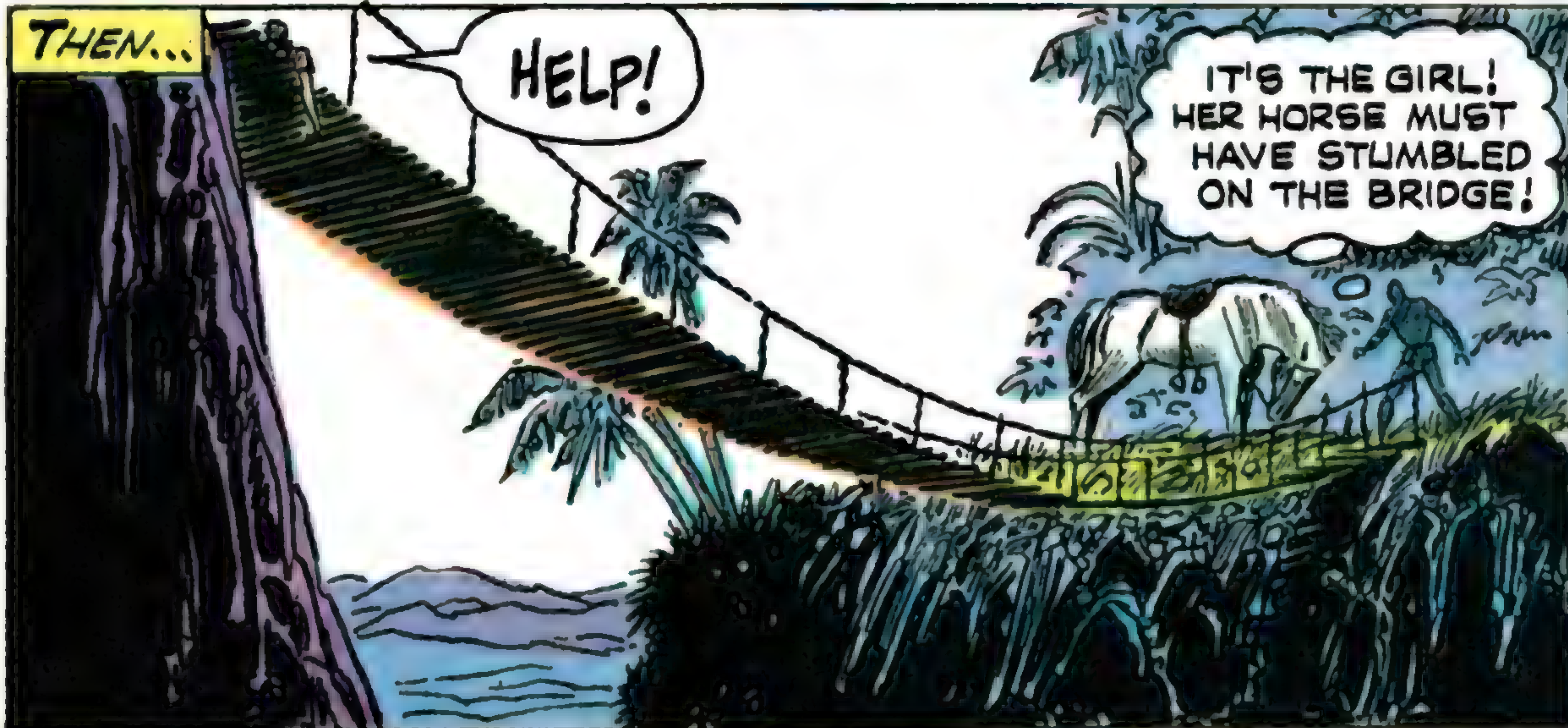
SHE'S RIDING TOWARD CANYON RAPIDS! POOR GIRL... SO ANXIOUS TO HELP! SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THE DANGERS HERE!



THEN...

HELP!

IT'S THE GIRL! HER HORSE MUST HAVE STUMBLERD ON THE BRIDGE!



KEEP CALM, MISS ATKINS! DON'T MOVE! I'M COMING!

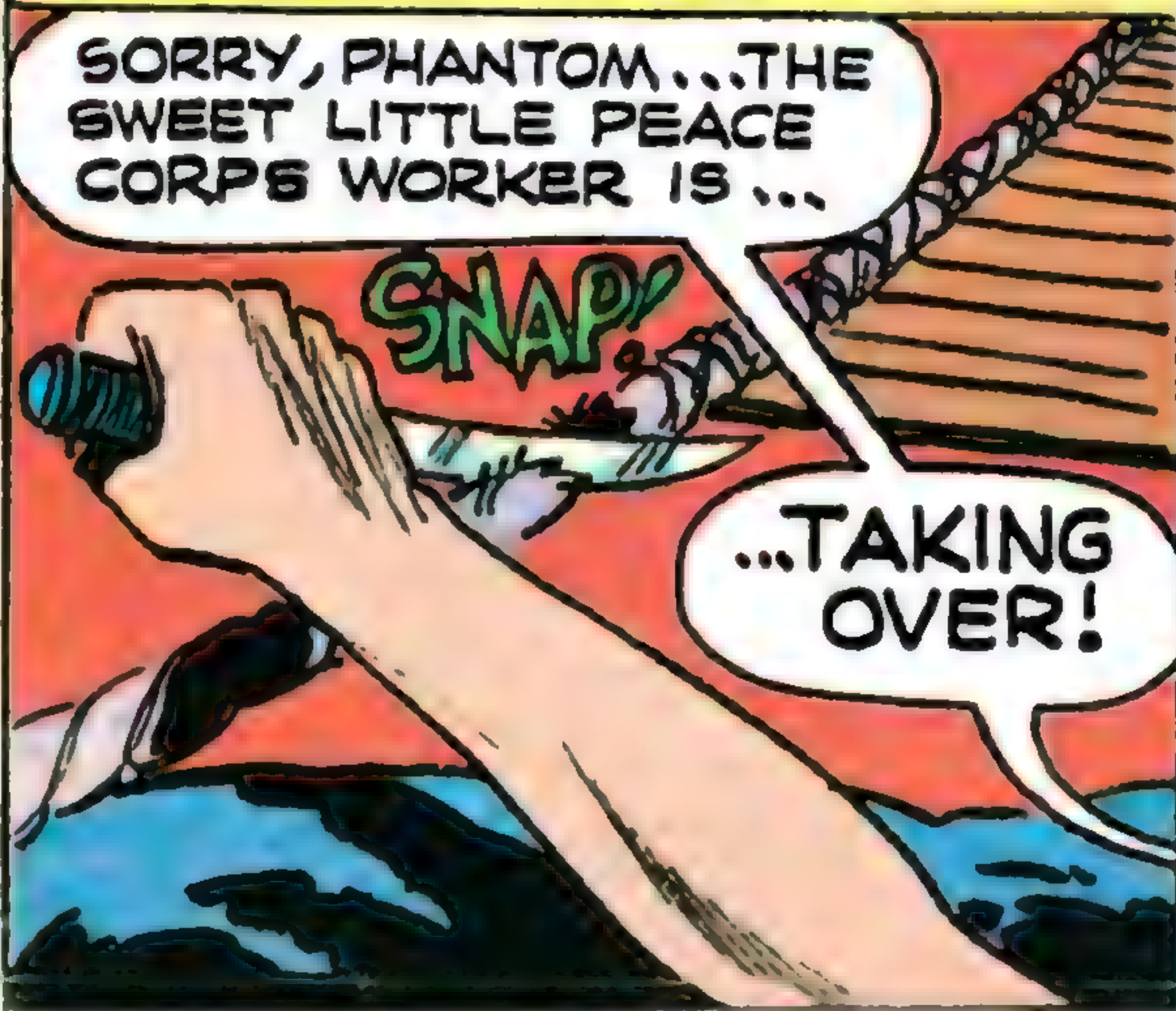


BUT SUDDENLY, AS THE PHANTOM IS HALF-WAY ACROSS THE BRIDGE...

SORRY, PHANTOM...THE SWEET LITTLE PEACE CORPS WORKER IS...

SNAP!

...TAKING OVER!



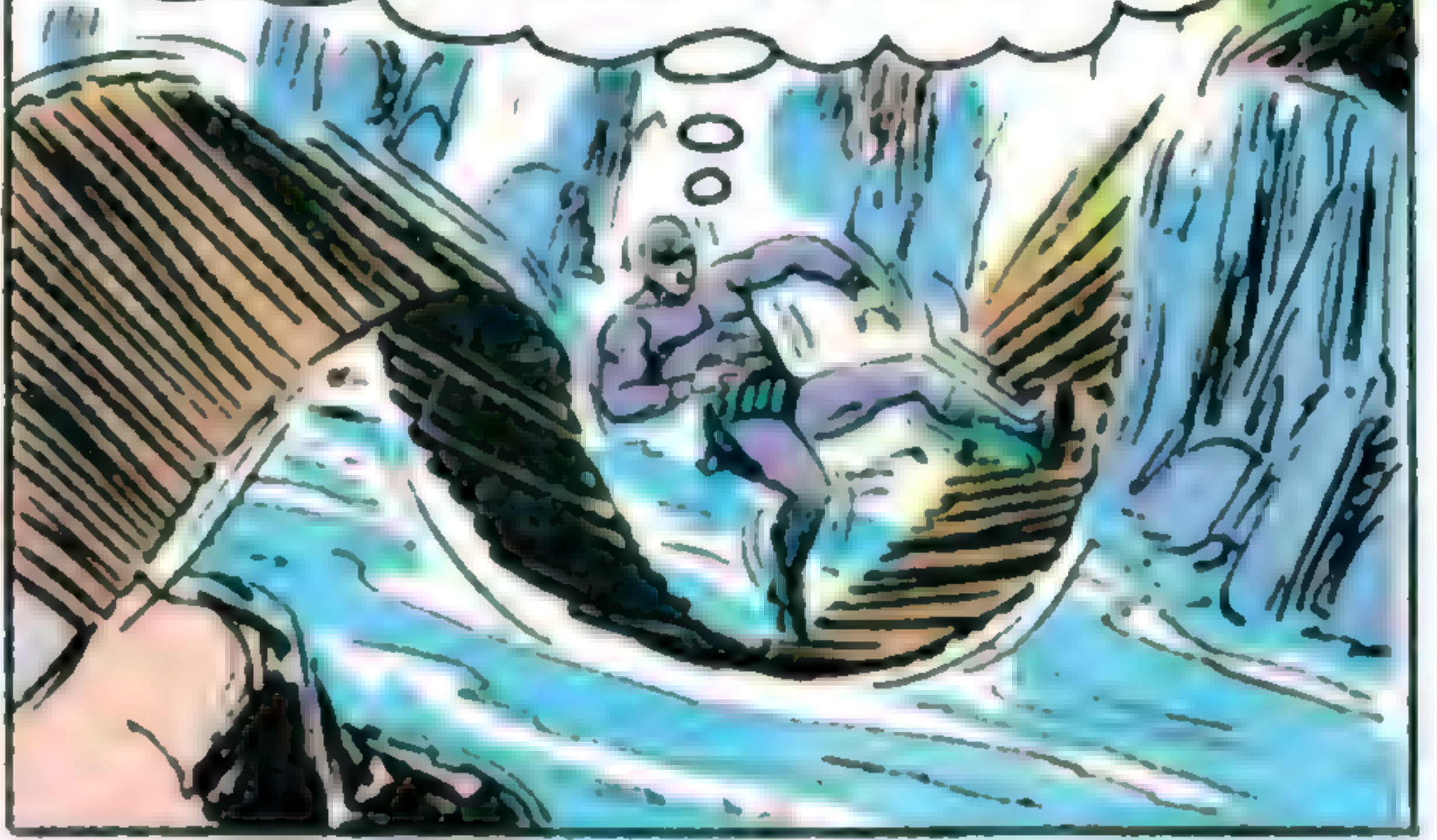
THE ROPE SUPPORTS PART AND...

**A-A TRAP!
BUT WHY?**



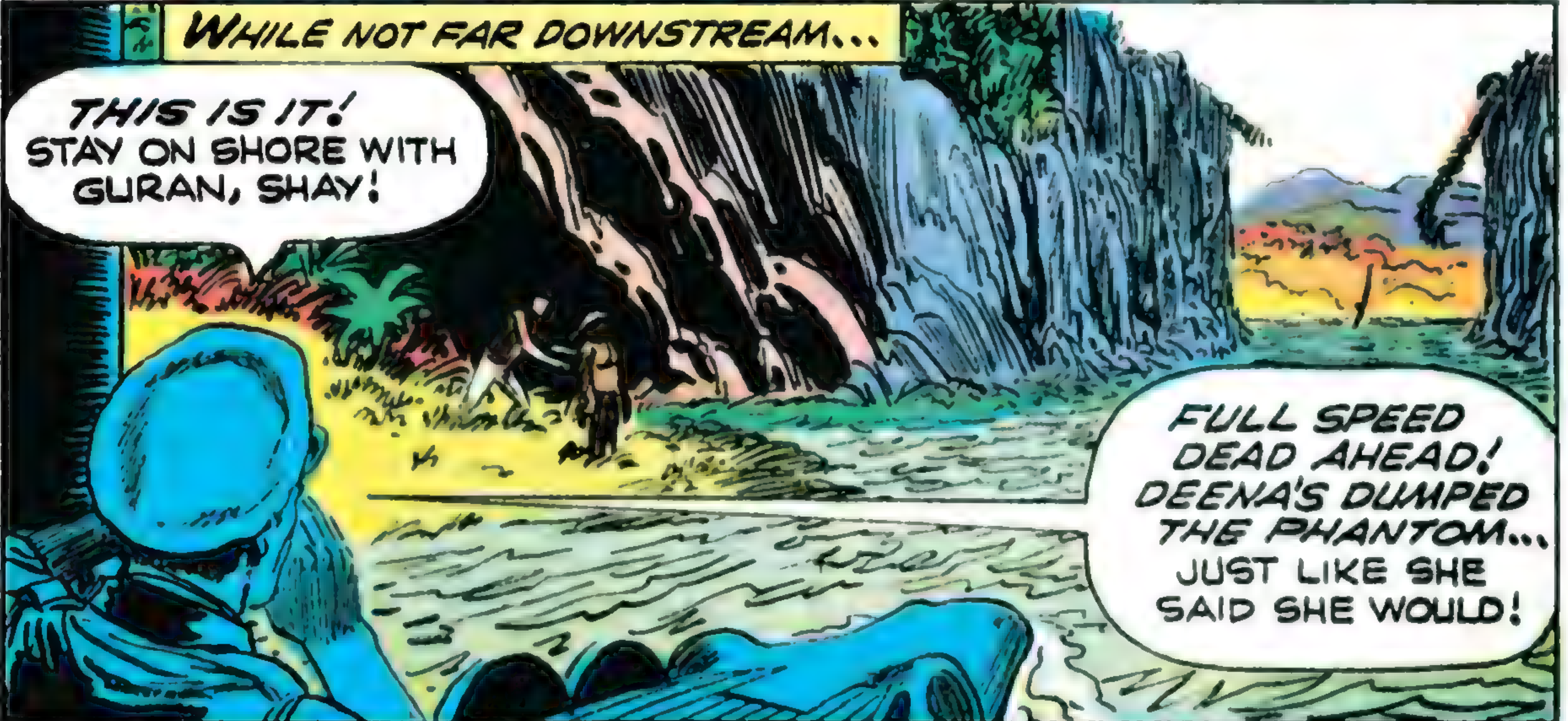
**DOWN, DOWN THE PHANTOM
PLUMMETS HELPLESSLY...**

**A TWO-HUNDRED FOOT DROP UN-
LESS I HIT THE WATER PERFECTLY,
MY BACK WILL SNAP LIKE A
MATCHSTICK!**



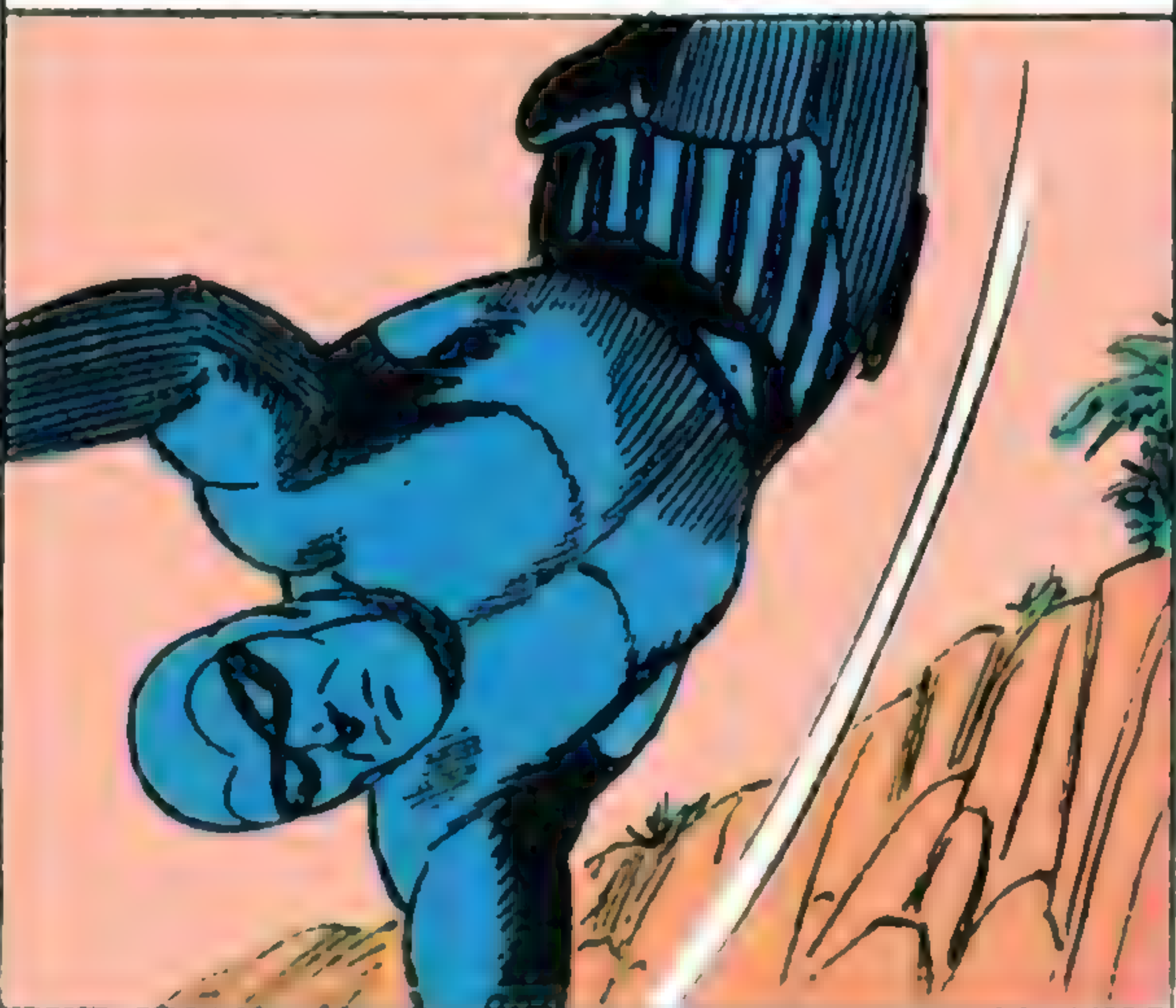
WHILE NOT FAR DOWNSTREAM...

**THIS IS IT!
STAY ON SHORE WITH
GURAN, SHAY!**



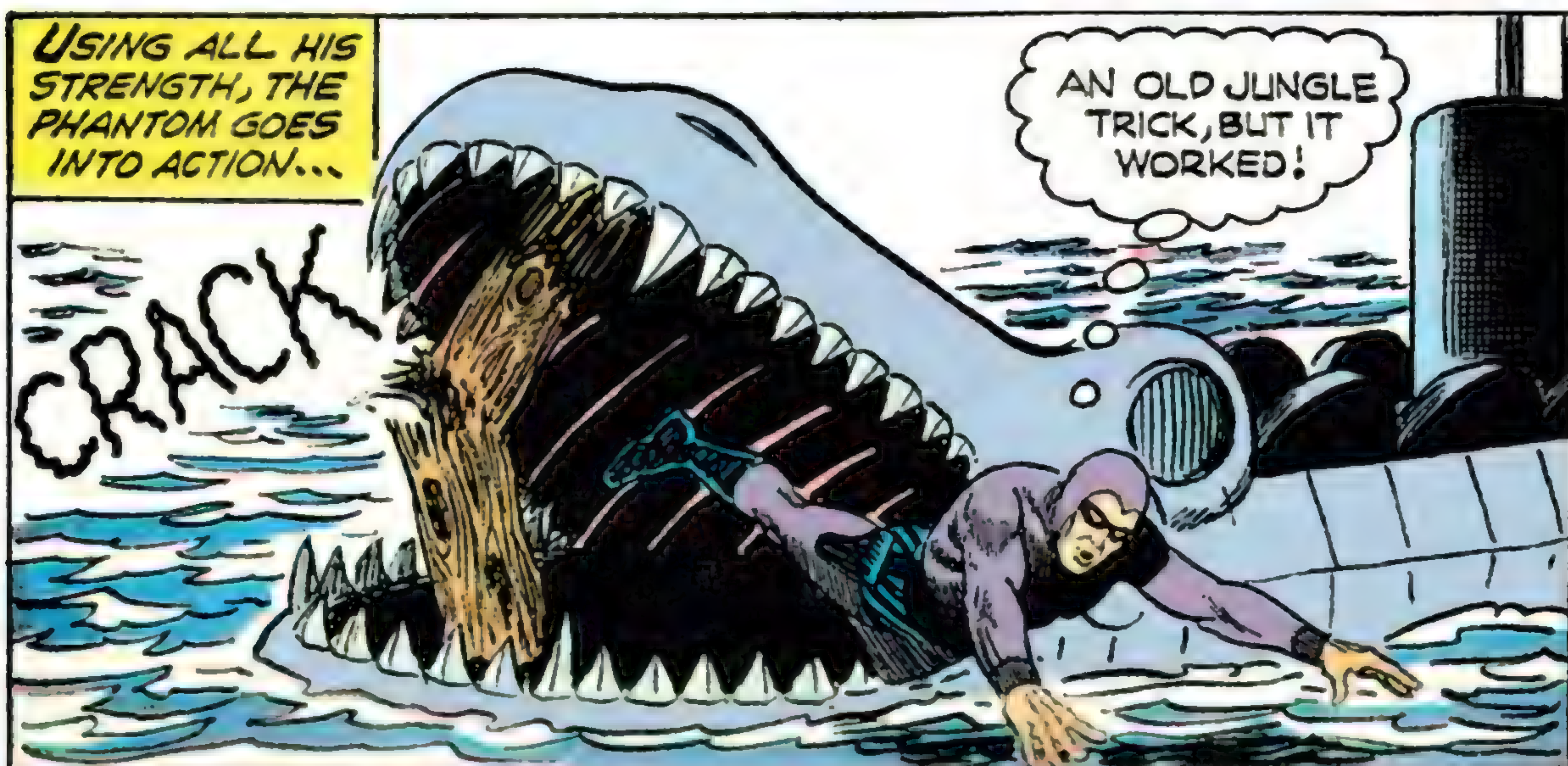
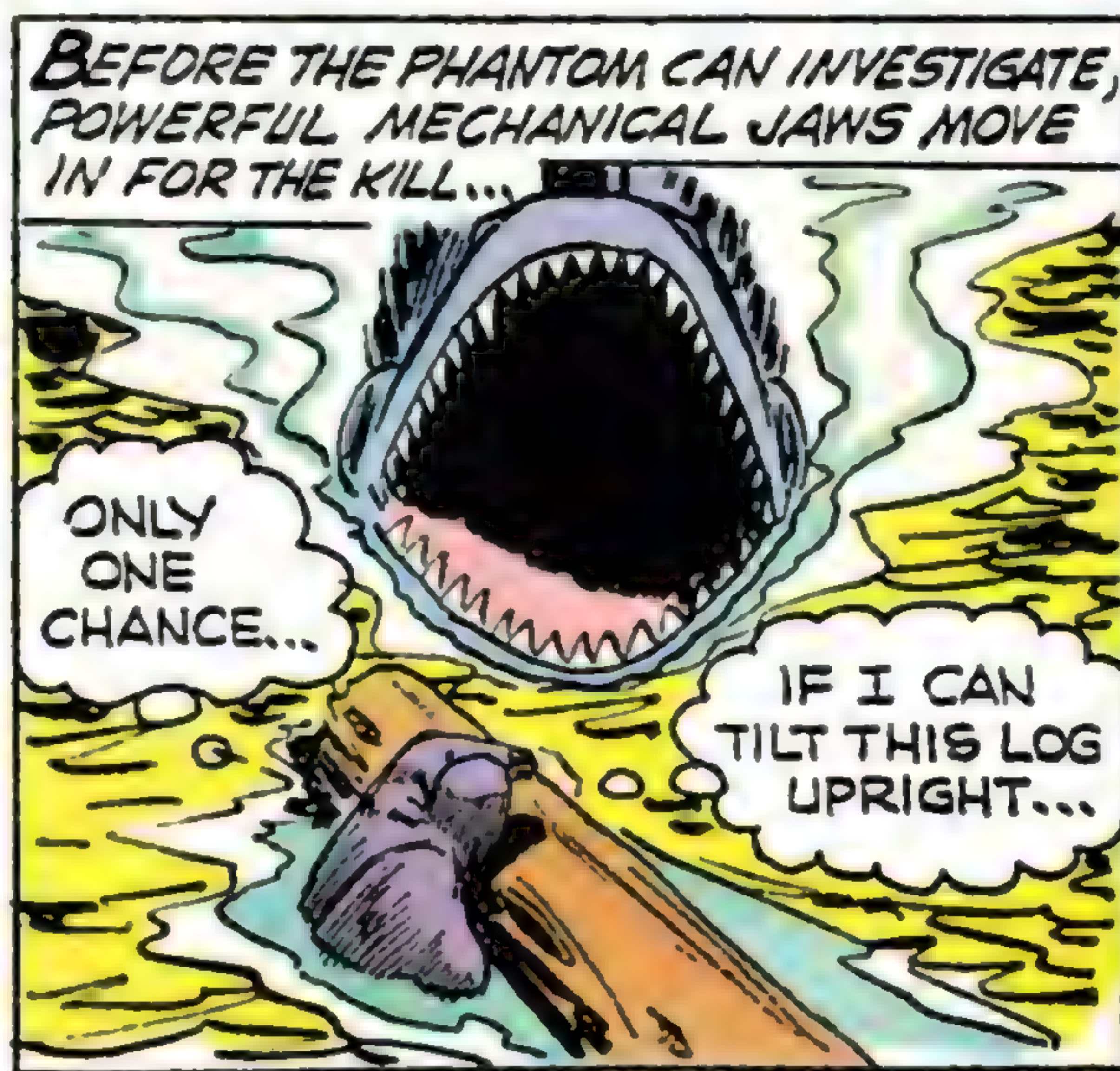
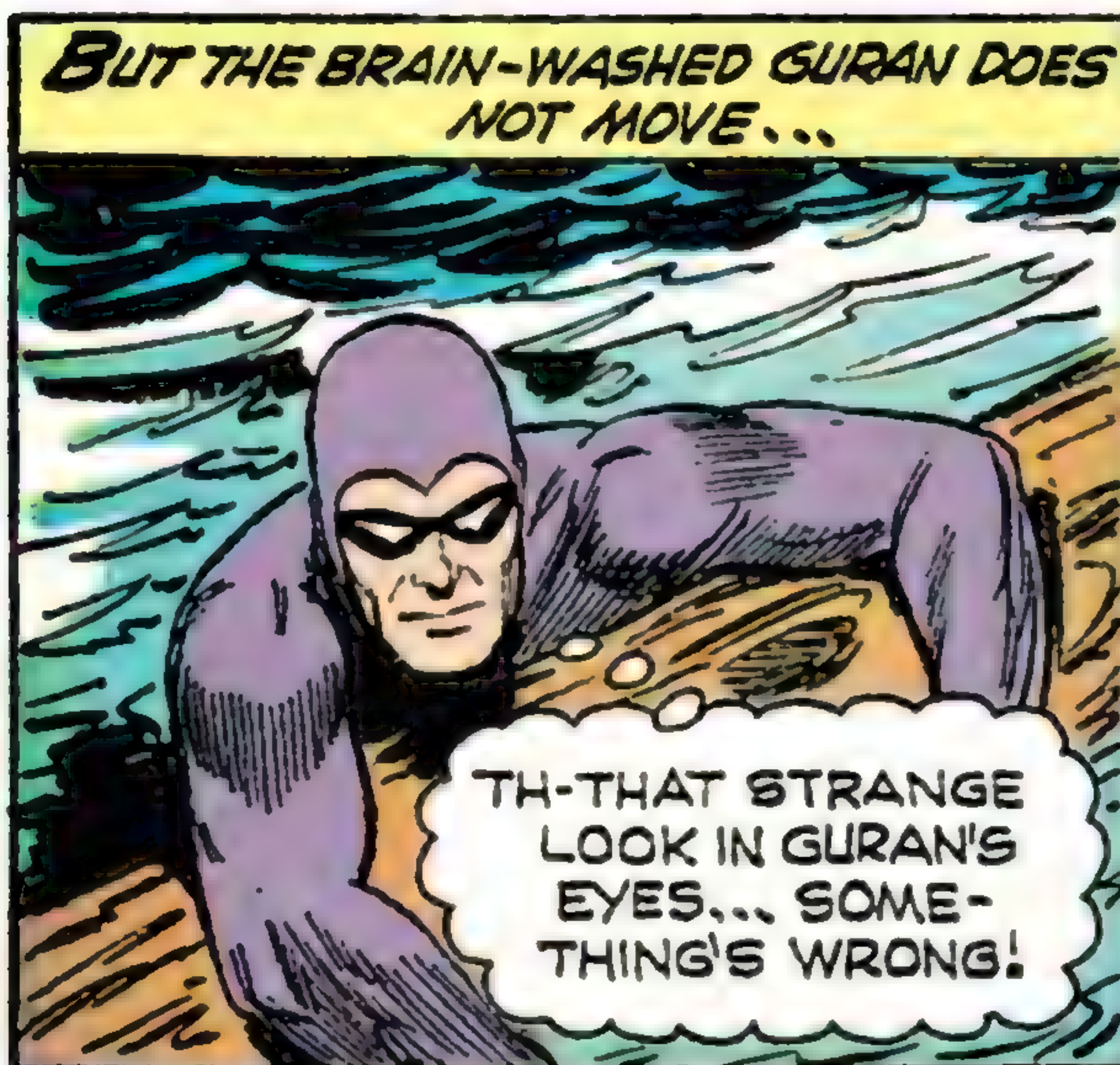
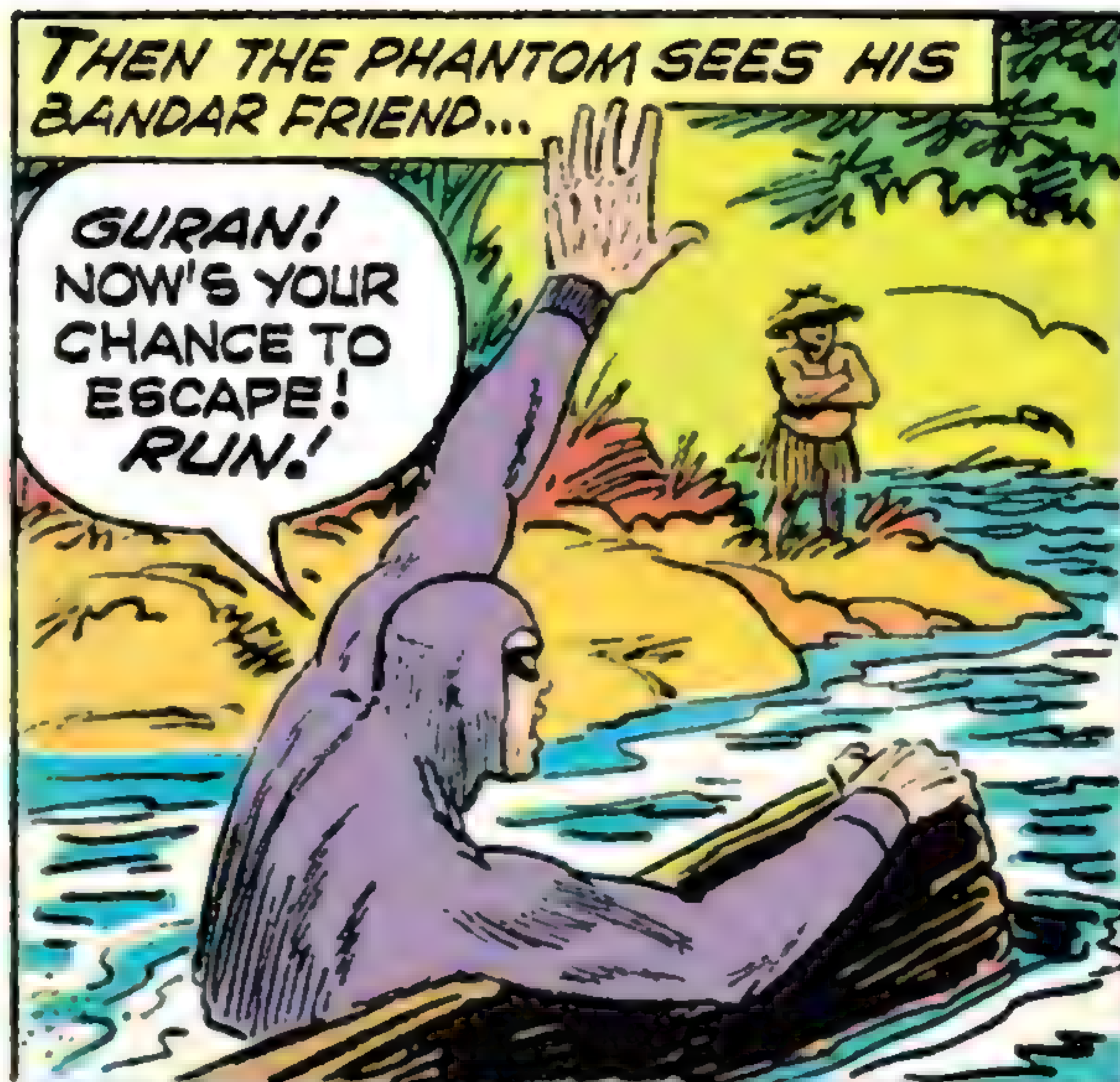
**FULL SPEED
DEAD AHEAD!
DEENA'S DUMPED
THE PHANTOM...
JUST LIKE SHE
SAID SHE WOULD!**

**DESPERATELY, THE PHANTOM BRACES
HIMSELF AGAINST THE IMPACT...**



**HIS JUNGLE-SHARPENED REFLEXES
SAVE HIM FROM INSTANT DEATH...**





MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM SURFACES OUT OF SIGHT...

HE'S DONE FOR! LET'S PICK UP DEENA AND PUT OUR BRAIN-WASHED NATIVE FRIEND INTO ACTION!

BRAIN-WASHED... SO THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH GURAN!

THEY'VE CLOUDED HIS MIND SOMEHOW... AND NOW HIS JOB IS OBVIOUS, TO LEAD THESE THIEVES TO THE SKULL CAVE AND THE PHANTOM TREASURE!

OUT OF SIGHT... NOW TO ALERT THE BANDAR GUARDS... MUST BE CAREFUL... IF WE ATTACK OUTRIGHT, GURAN COULD BE KILLED!

LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...

WE MUST SAVE GURAN! DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY PLAN?

WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU, GHOST WHO WALKS!

MINUTES LATER, HIS PLAN GOES INTO ACTION...

(GURGLE!)

(CHOKE!)

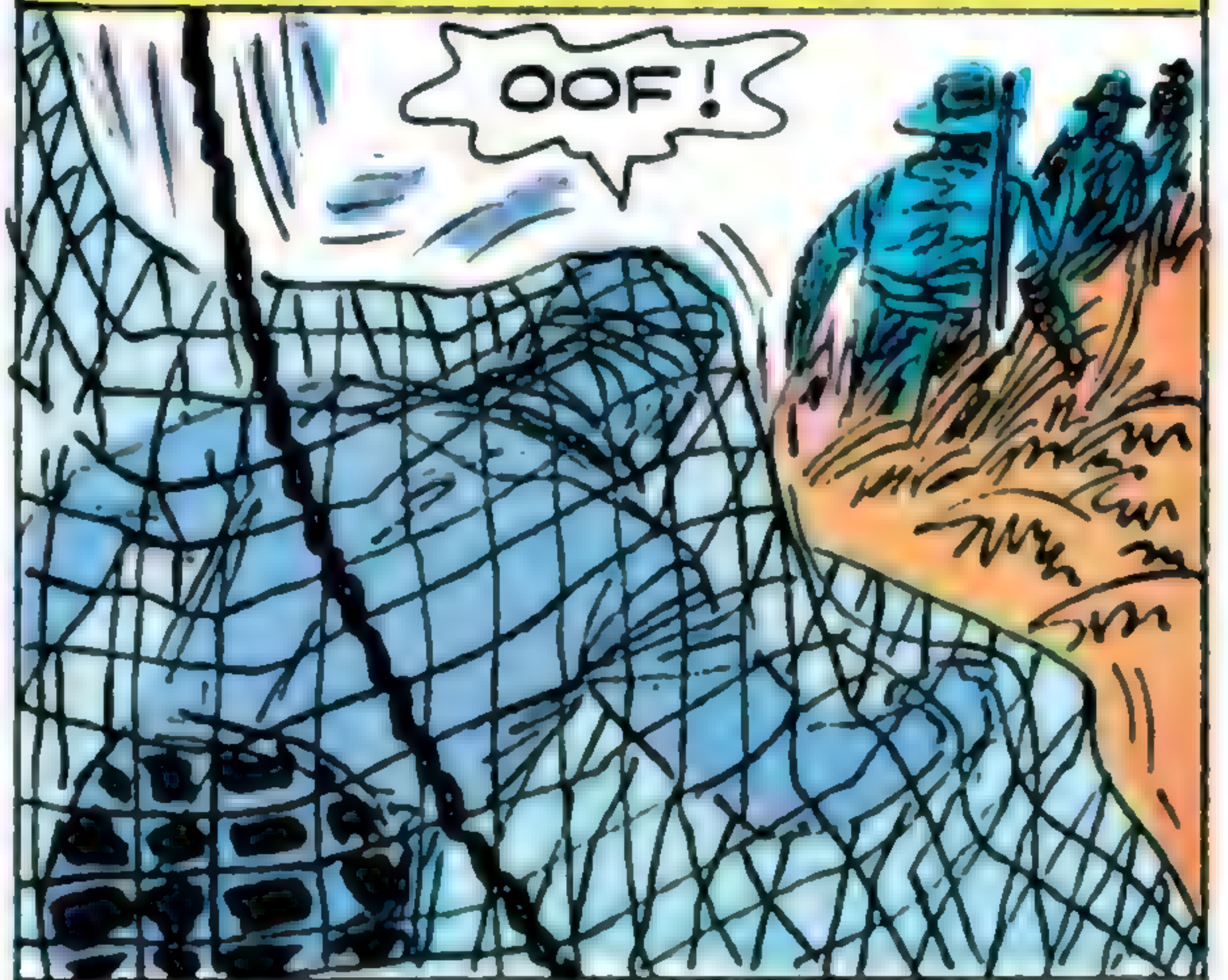
AND FURTHER ALONG THE SECRET JUNGLE TRAIL ...

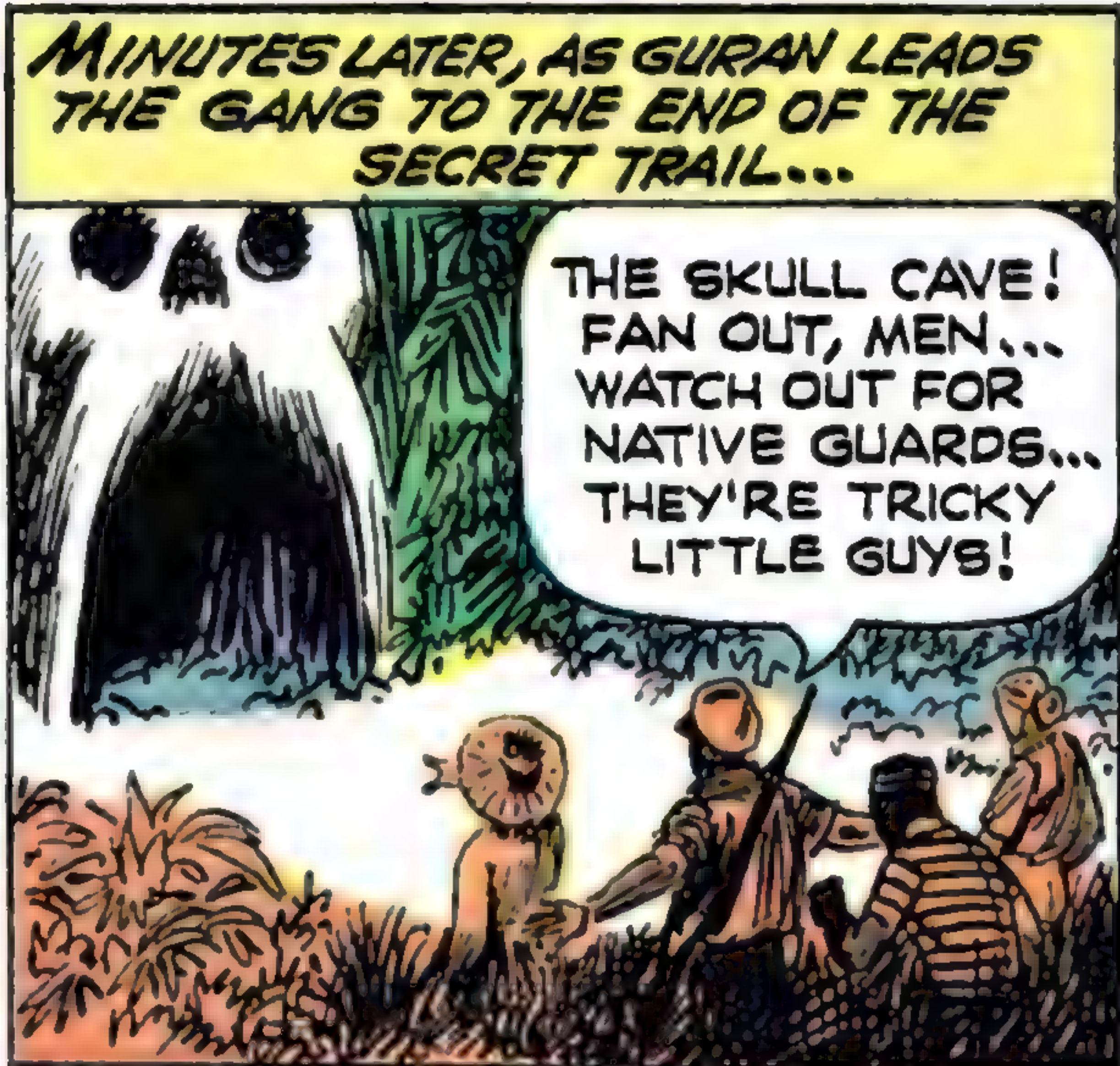


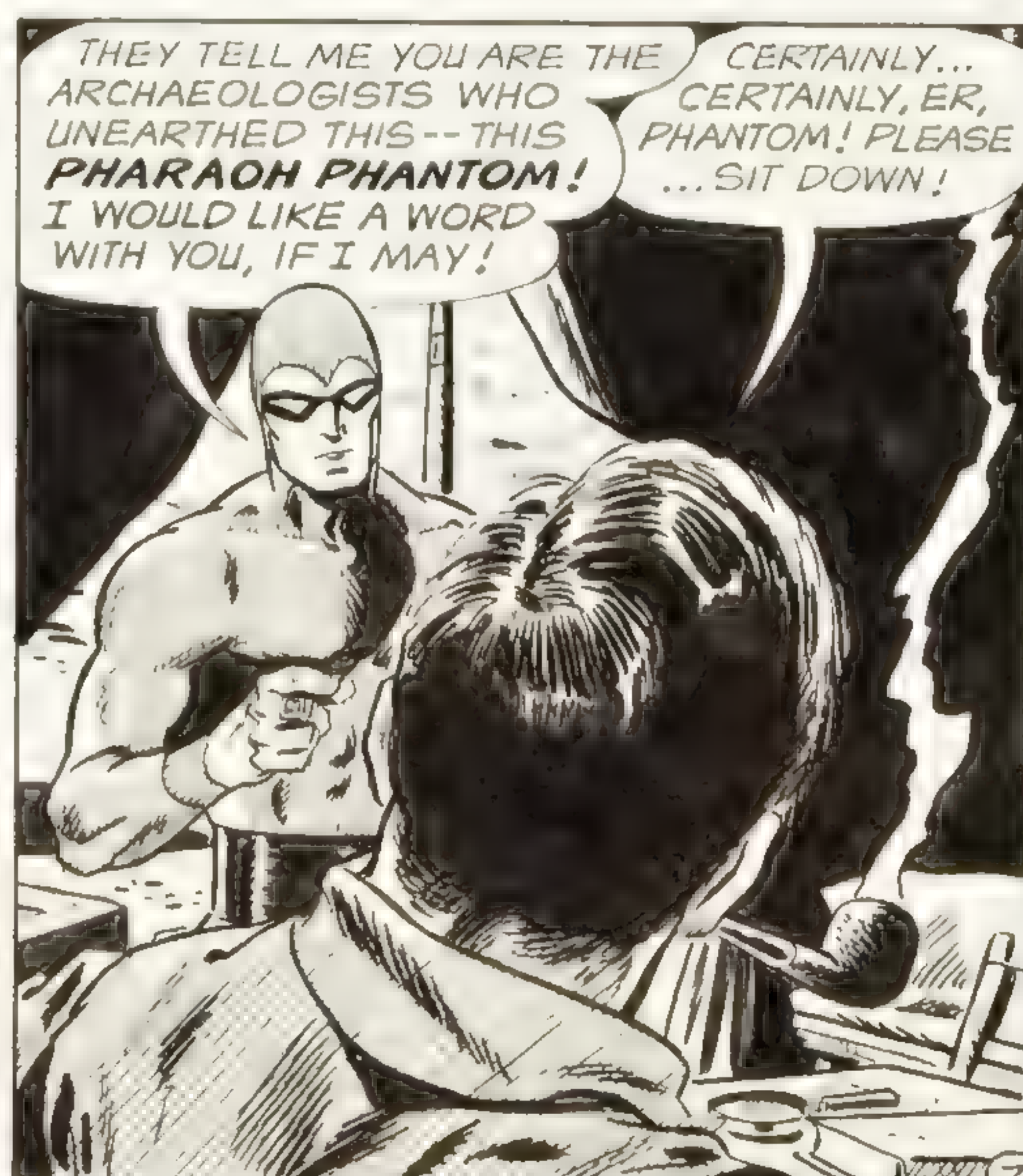
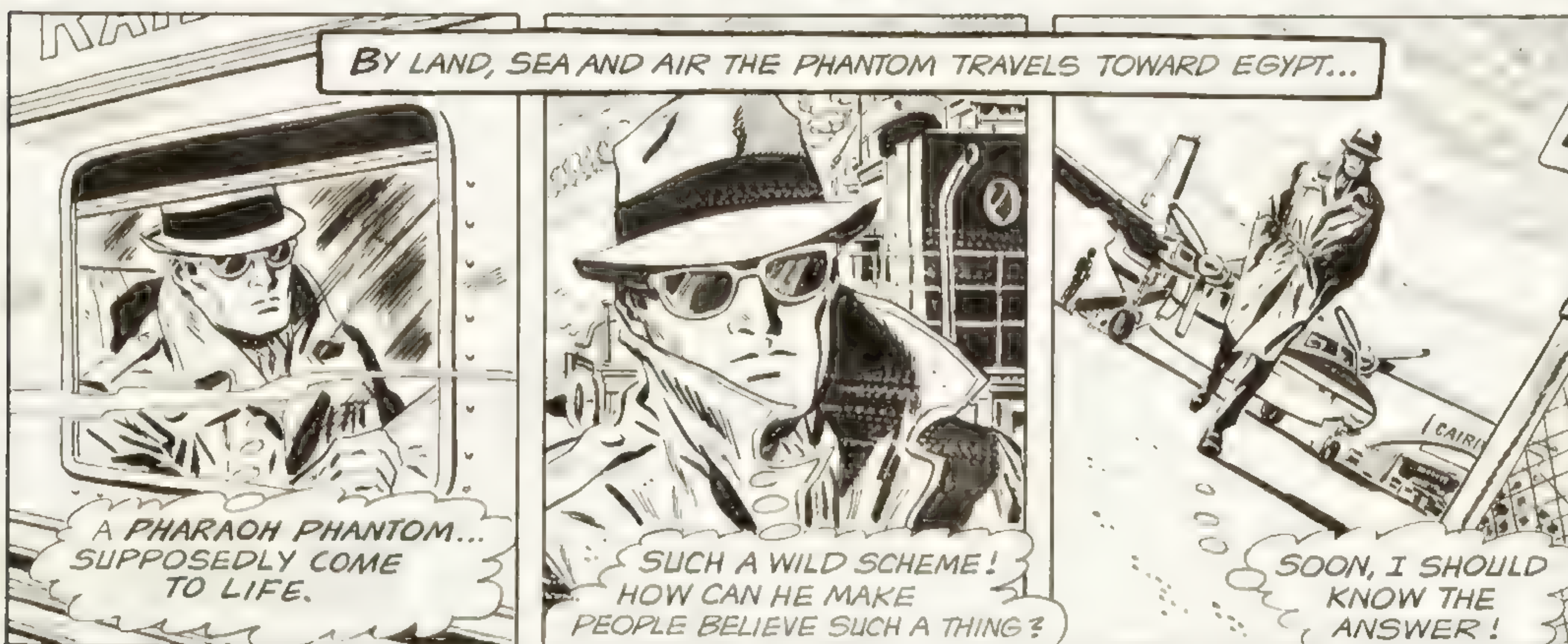
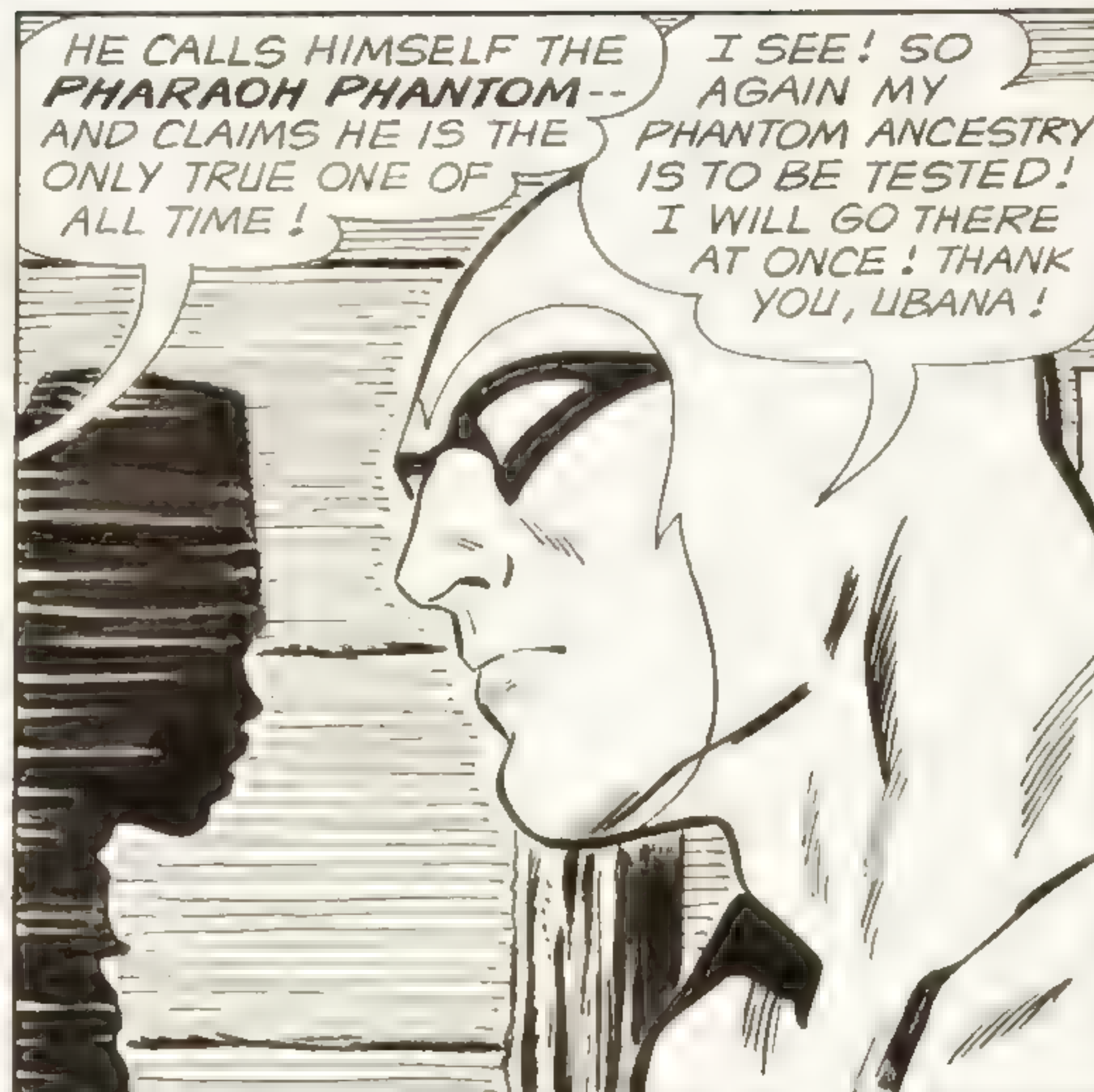
SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW LET'S GET AHEAD OF THEM AGAIN AND TRY TO REDUCE HIS STRENGTH BY A FEW MORE MEN!



ONE BY ONE, THE LAST MAN IN LINE MEETS WITH AN ACCIDENT...







Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM



The RIDDLE of the WITCH

THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL THE STORY OF A PRETTY YOUNG GIRL WHO LIVED IN THE DEEP WOODS MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO. SHE WAS NO ORDINARY GIRL, BUT THE TWIN SISTER OF THE PHANTOM, TRAINED IN THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE. SEVERAL TIMES, SHE TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO REPLACE THE PHANTOM. BUT ONE TIME NOT EVEN THE PHANTOM HIMSELF KNEW HER SECRET UNTIL SHE HAD SOLVED THE PUZZLING RIDDLE OF THE WITCH.

TRAGEDY BENEATH THE MOON
PITCH BLACK THE MOONLESS SKIES.
NIGHT OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING
BLOOD RED THE DARK EARTH DRIES.
NEAR THE KING THE GHOST SHALL STAND
FAR OFF THE GHOST DOES FLY.
NOT ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING
A MIGHTY KING SHALL DIE.



HERE'S ANOTHER STORY ABOUT JULIE, THE SISTER OF *THE PHANTOM* WHO WAS MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER!



"IT TOOK PLACE ON A DAY MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO... A VIOLENT JUNGLE STORM WAS RAGING THROUGH THE DEEP WOODS..."



"CAUGHT IN THE SUDDEN STORM, MY ANCESTOR DECIDED TO TAKE SHELTER WITH THE SANGARIS..."



IN KING TUMUCHI'S HUT...

MUST YOU GO NOW, *PHANTOM*? THE JUNGLE IS FULL OF DANGERS AFTER SUCH A STORM!



THE FAR-OFF PRATTONIANS NEED MY HELP. BUT I WILL HEED YOUR WARNING, KING TUMUCHI.

I KNOW THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS NO ORDINARY MAN. STILL...





AT THE SKULL CAVE, JULIE AND HER NATIVE COMPANION, MARU, HEAR OF THE TROUBLE...

THE GIRL MAY BE LOST IN THE DARK CLIFFS? WHY WILL NO ONE SEARCH FOR HER THERE?

MANY WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY HAVE HEARD TERRIBLE SOUNDS FROM THE WITCH'S CAVE. BUT NO ONE WHO HAS SEEN HER HAS *EVER* RETURNED!

IT IS SAID THE WITCH CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE. HER PROPHECIES ARE IN RIDDLES NO MAN CAN SOLVE. BUT *I* CANNOT BELIEVE ALL THIS.

NOR DO I. AND NEITHER WOULD THE *PHANTOM* IF HE WERE HERE!

BUT THE GIRL PHANTOM HAS NO INTENTION OF WAITING FOR HER BROTHER'S RETURN...

MISS JULIE... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THE DARK CLIFFS. STAY HERE IN CASE *THE PHANTOM* RETURNS.

COME ON, FLASH! WE'LL NEED ALL YOUR SPEED AND SPIRIT TODAY!

GRRR!

YES, FURY. I'M AFRAID FOR OUR MISTRESS, TOO!

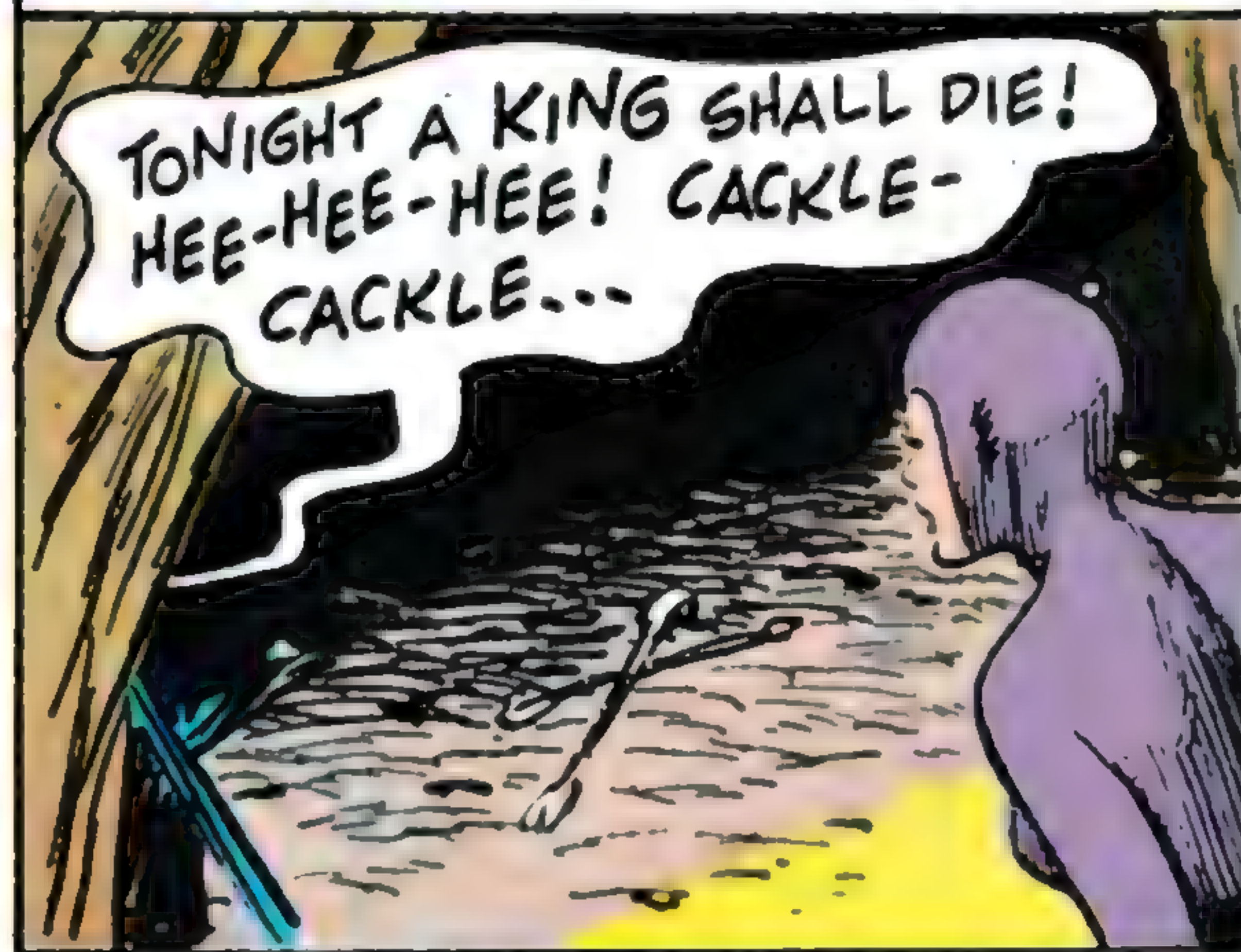
NEARING THE DARK CLIFFS, JULIE SEES THAT THE STORM HAS DESTROYED THE RIVER BRIDGE...



ACROSS THE WATERS, A SCREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE...



THE SHRILL VOICE OF THE WITCH REPEATING THE WORDS OF THE RIDDLE OVER AND OVER AGAIN...



FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE
WITCH IS FROZEN...



BUT AS THE GIRL PHANTOM
COMES NEARER, THE WITCH'S
KNIFE FLIES...



IN THE INSTANT JULIE IS
DISTRACTED BY THE KNIFE, THE OLD
HAG VANISHES INTO THIN AIR...

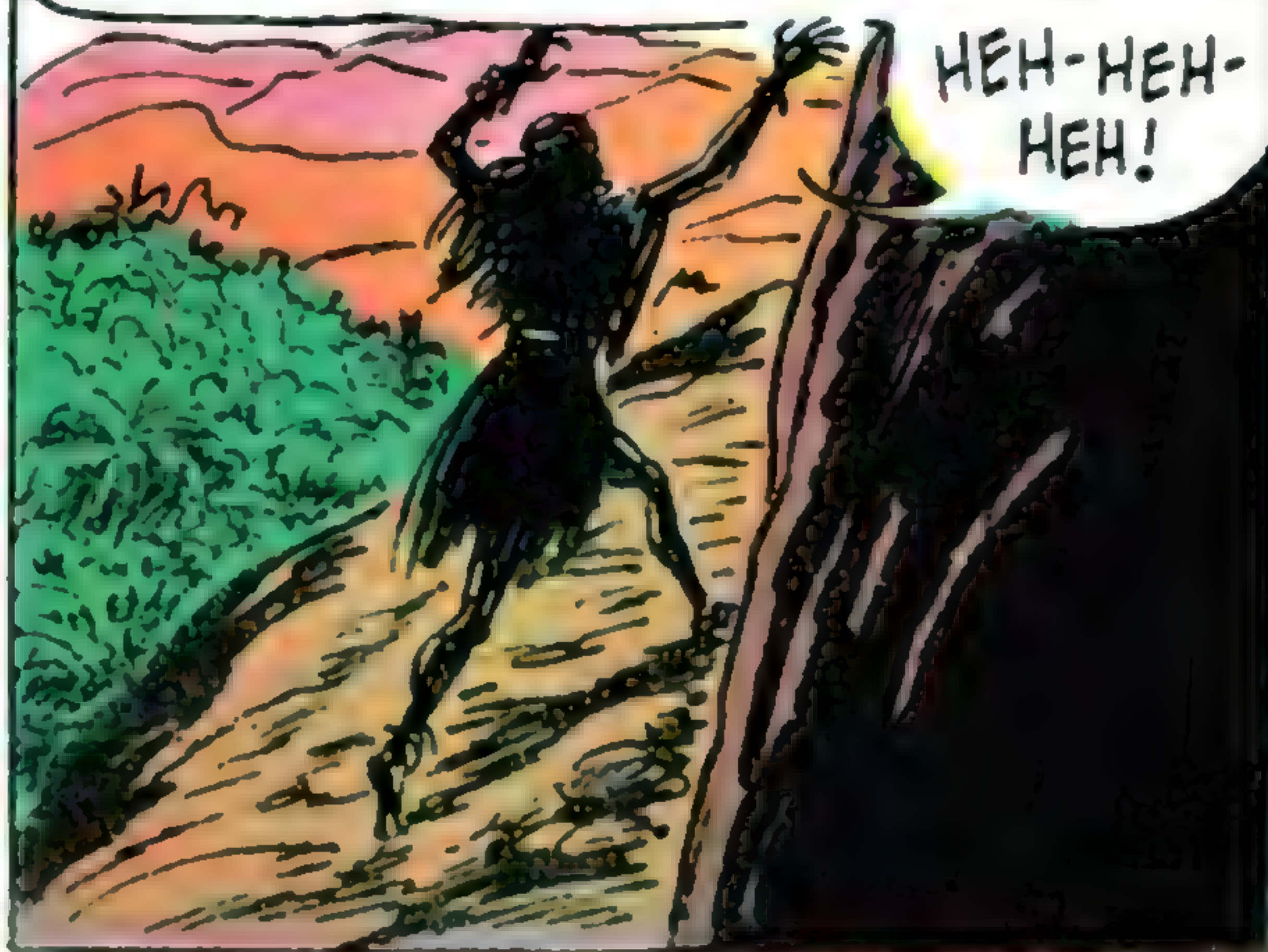


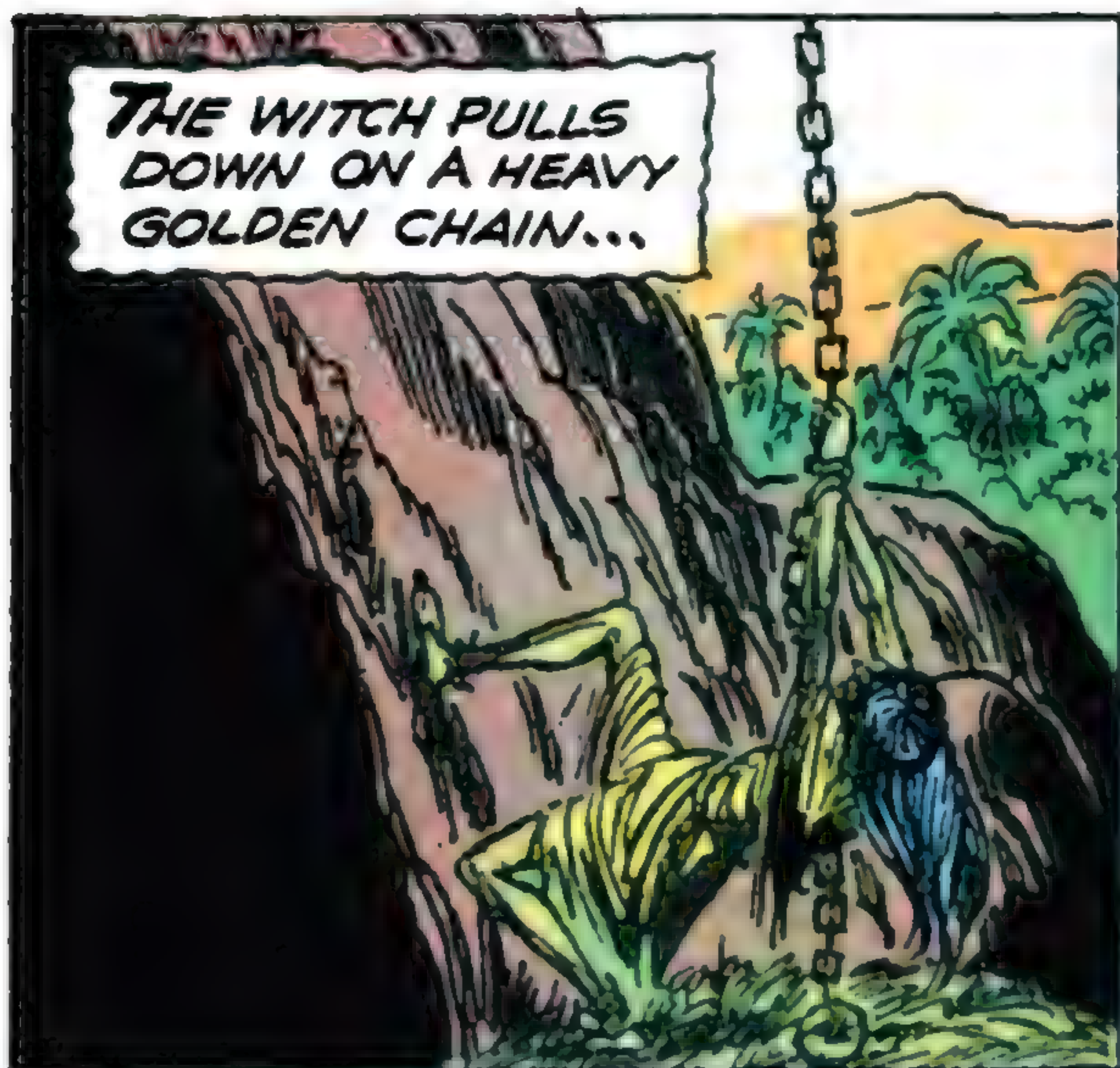
SHE MAY RETURN
AS SUDDENLY! GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE FAST!



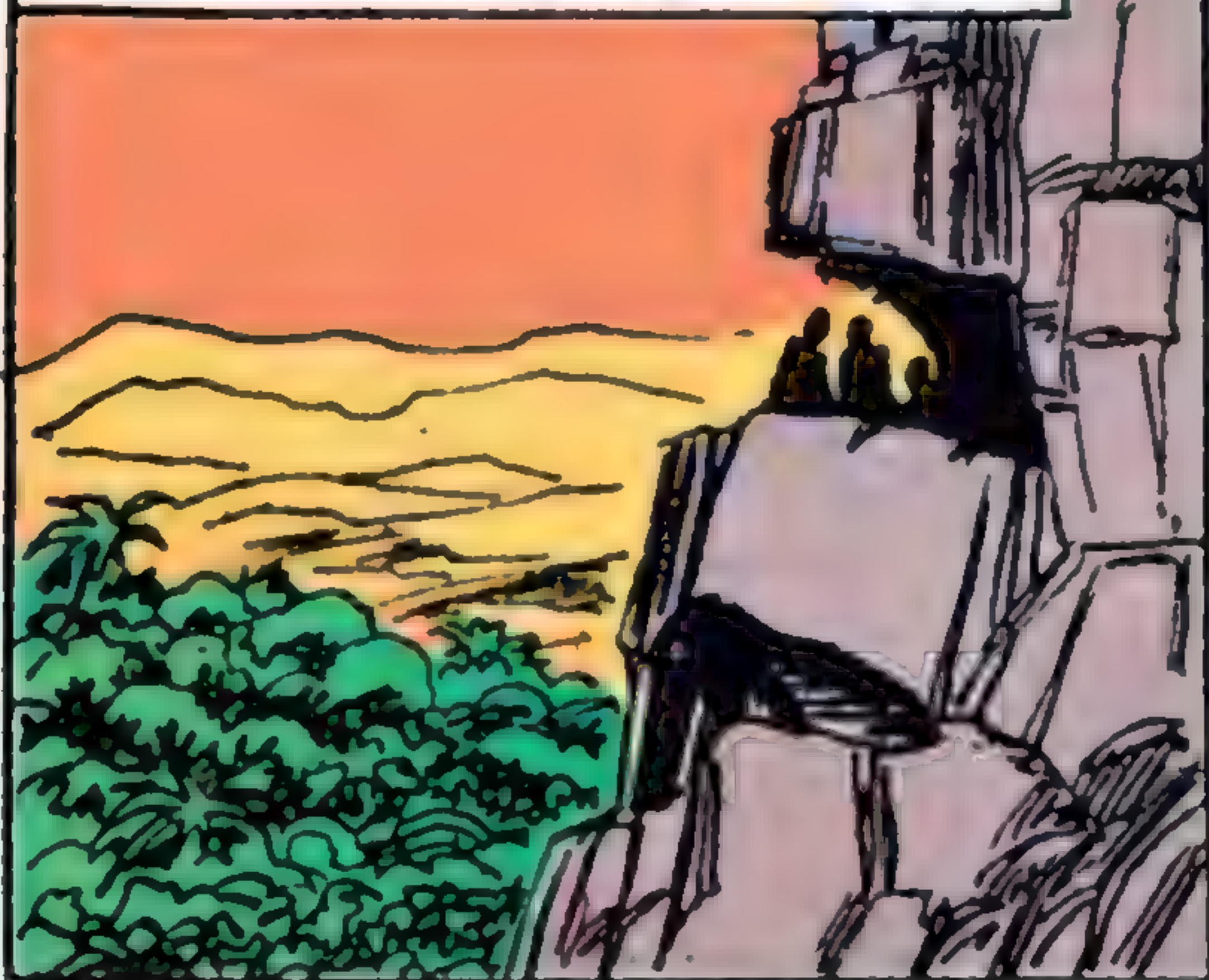
BUT THE WITCH HAS OTHER PLANS...

EVEN THE PHANTOM CANNOT ES-
CAPE THE WITCH OF THE DARK CLIFFS!





THE ROARING OF THE
AVALANCHE DIES, AND THE
WITCH'S LAUGHTER DIES
WITH IT...



MARU, YOU
SAVED OUR
LIVES! HOW
DID YOU
GET HERE?

FURY BROKE AWAY FROM
ME AND FOLLOWED YOU
TO THE RIVER. THE
CURRENT WAS SWIFT,
BUT I SWAM ACROSS.
SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU
WERE IN DANGER!



"WHEN I GOT TO THE FOOT OF
THE CLIFF I SAW A LARGE
ROCK FALLING! ... STORIES
ABOUT THE WITCH SAY HER
MAGIC CAN CAUSE MANY
ROCKS TO FALL. THIS IS HOW
SHE KILLS HER ENEMIES."



"I CLIMBED THE CLIFF WHERE IT IS
PROTECTED BY THIS LEDGE, AND THEN
I SAW YOU COMING OUT OF THE CAVE,
JUST IN TIME TO WARN YOU."



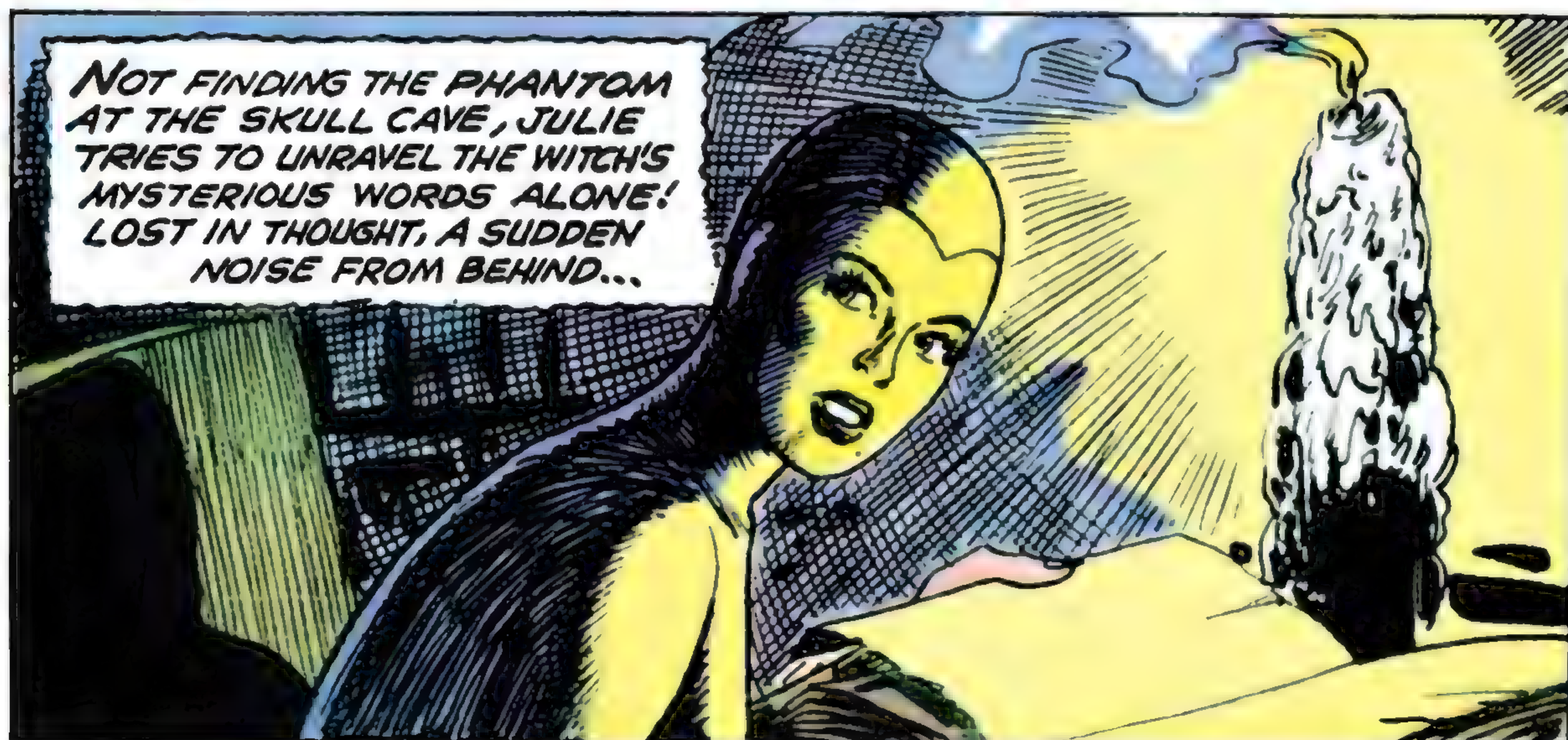
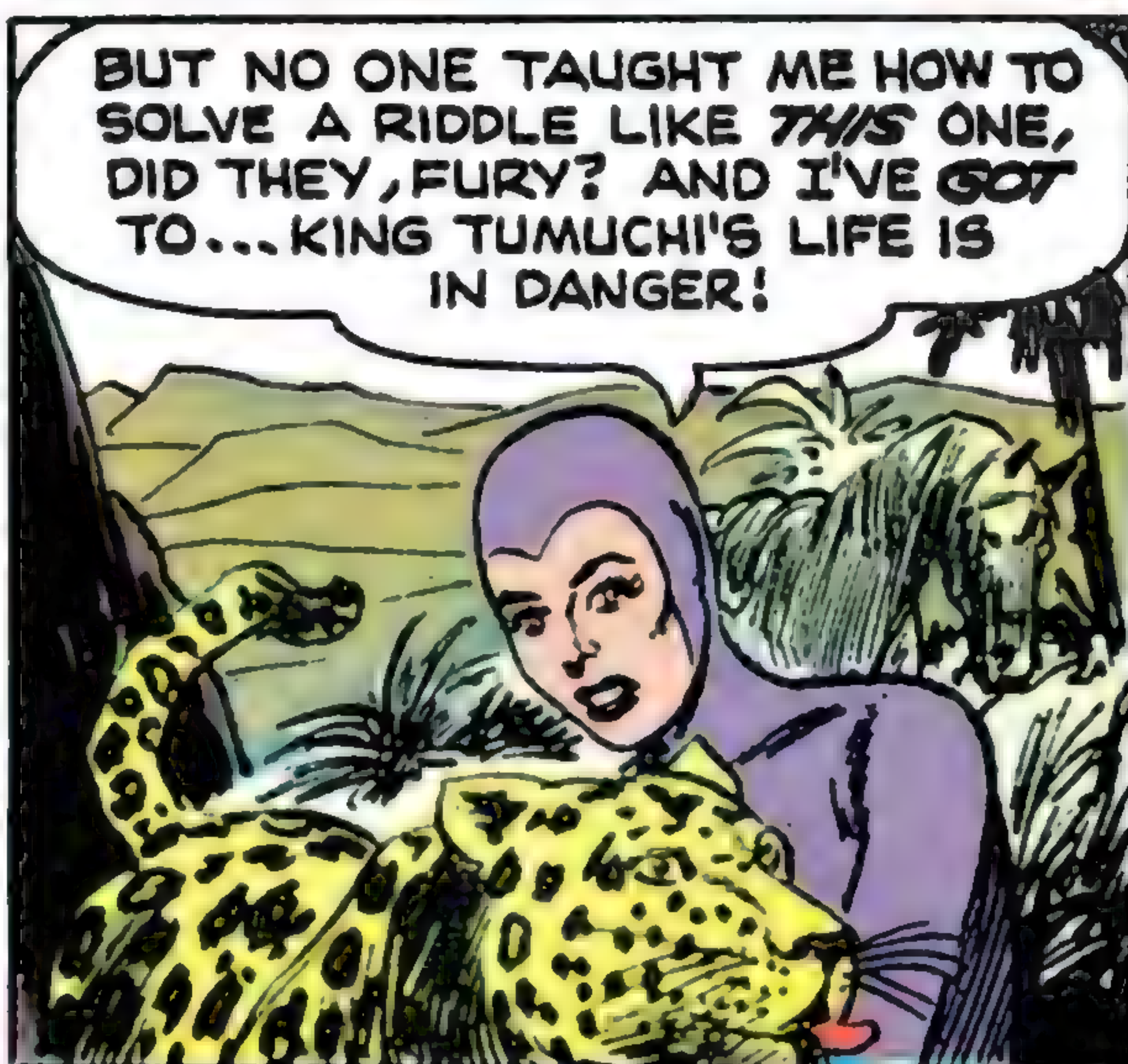
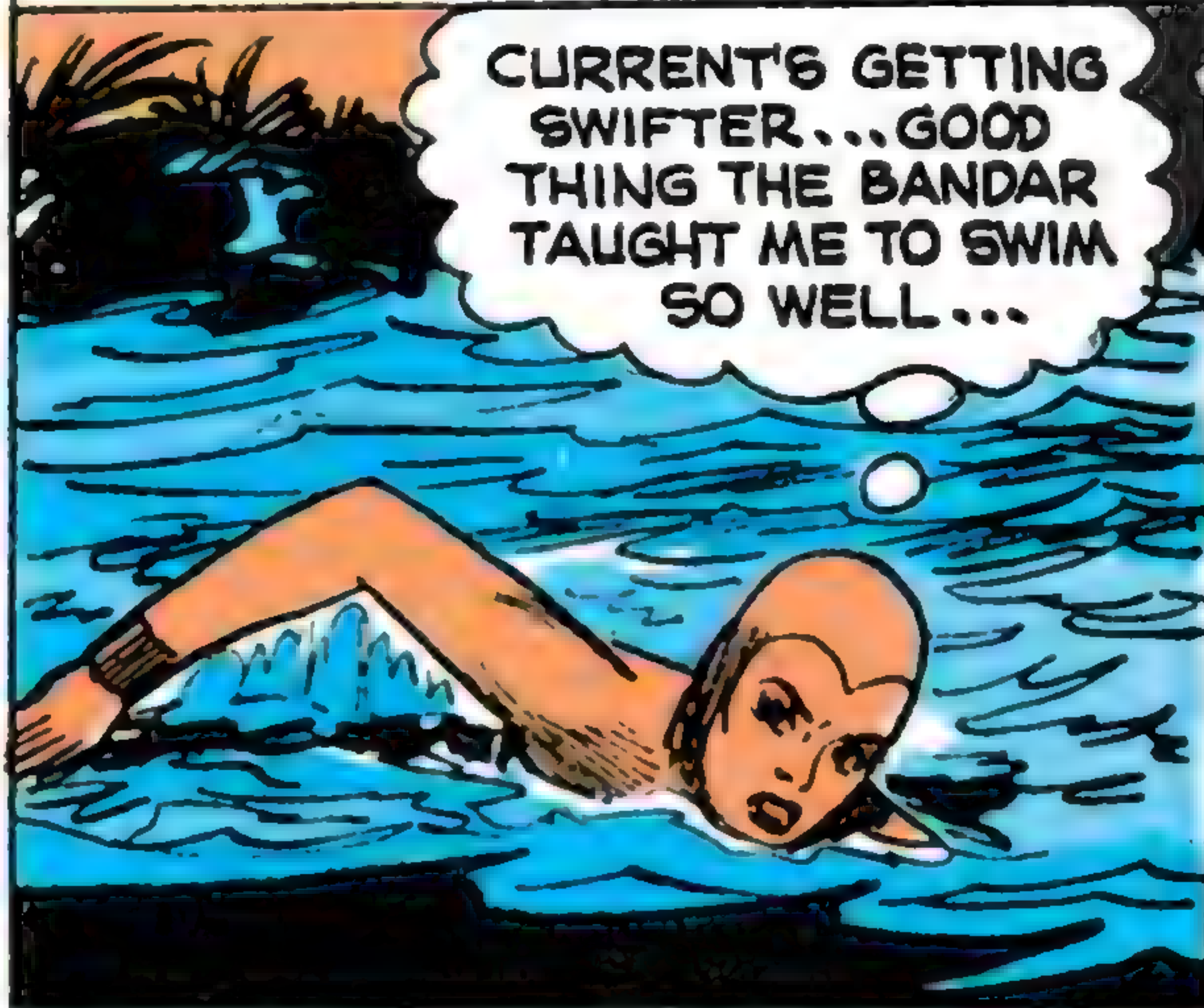
QUICK, MISS JULIE!
GO BEFORE ADASI
AWAKENS!

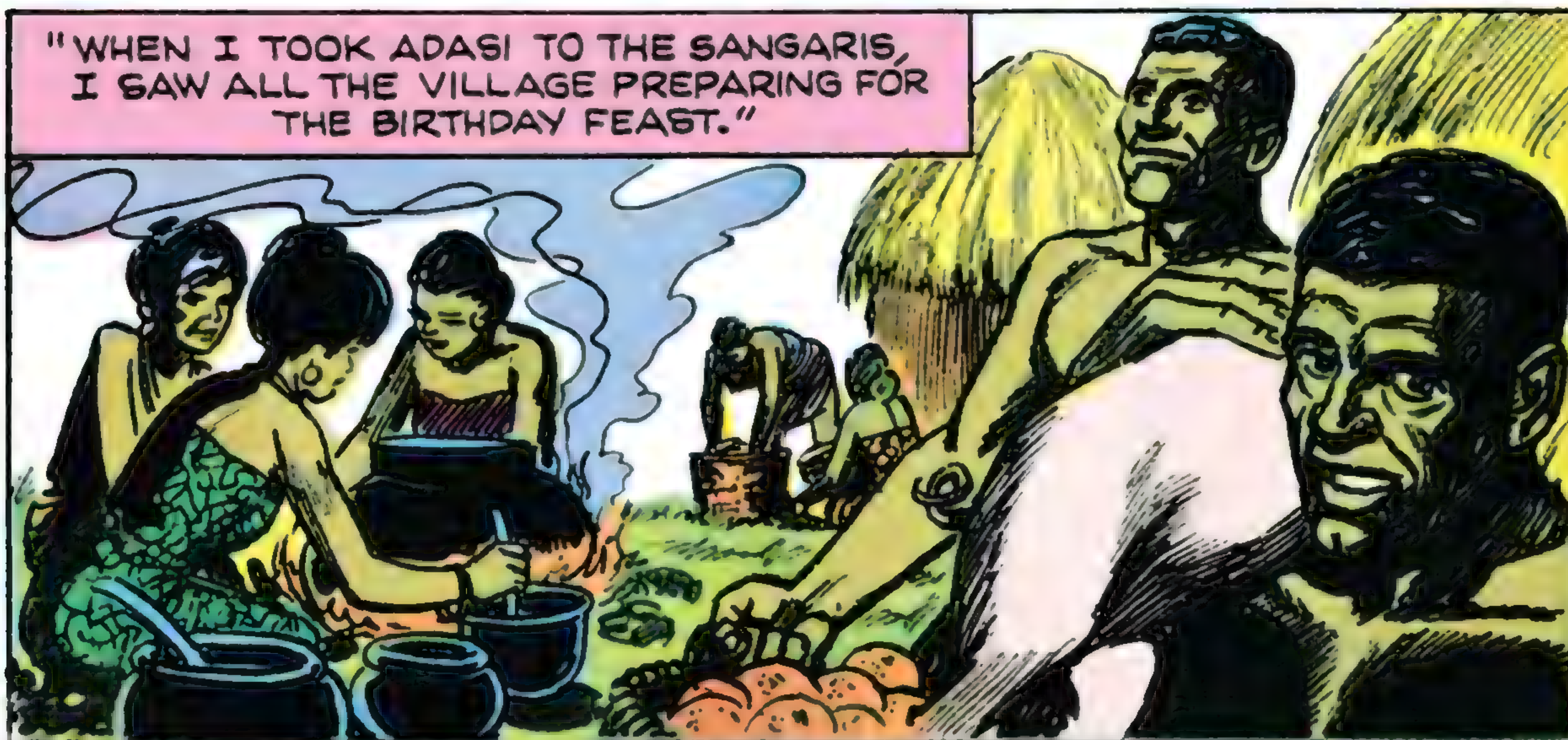
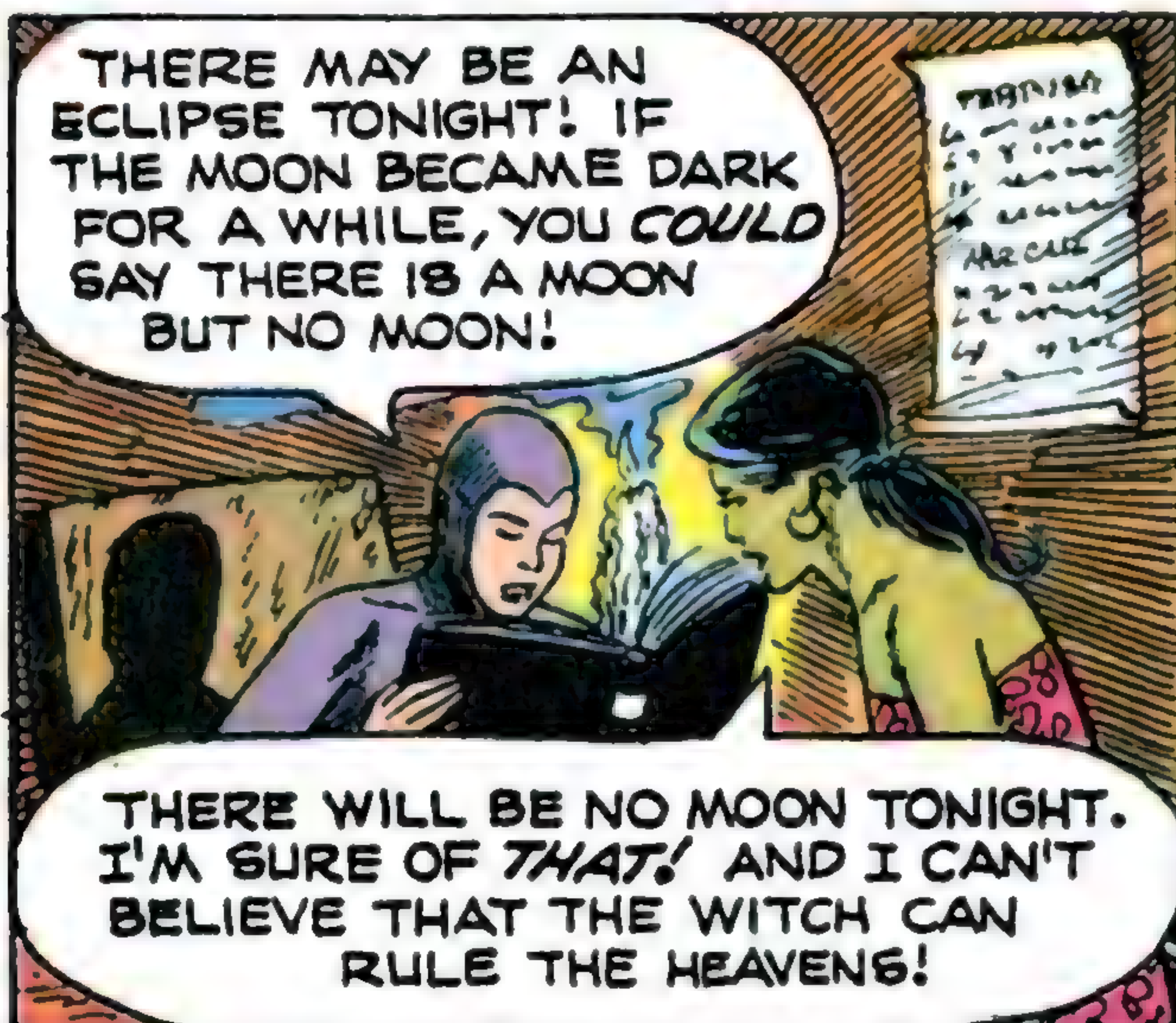
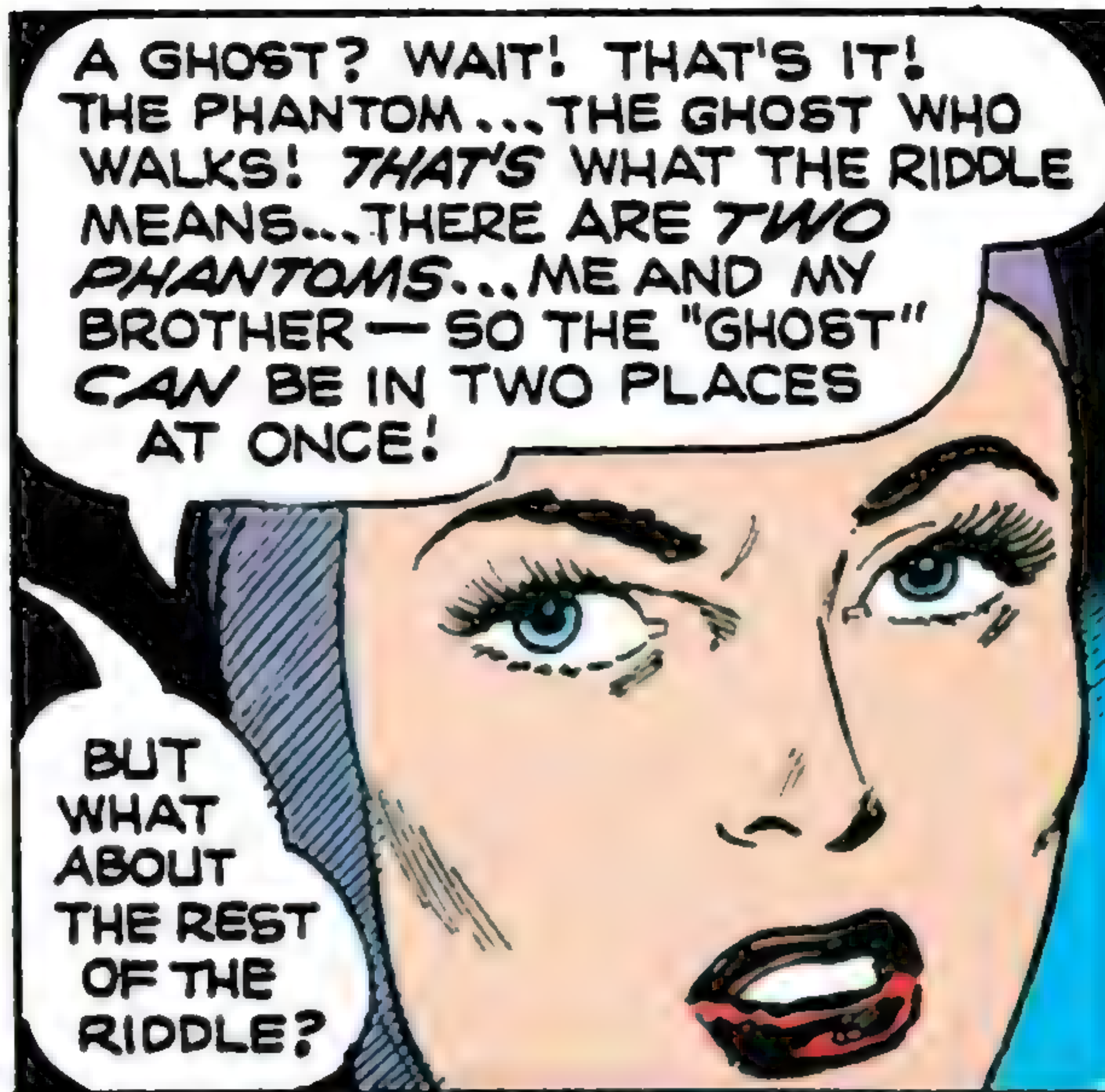
YES, YOU CAN TAKE
HER TO THE VILLAGE
BY CROSSING THE
BRIDGE UP THE RIVER.
I THINK THAT ONE
WILL BE SAFE!





JULIE'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED AS SHE BATTLES THE RAGING RIVER...





"THE SANGARIS WAIT FOR THIS NIGHT ALL YEAR LONG...THERE ARE GAMES AND CONTESTS, AND EVERYONE DRESSES IN THE COSTUME OF AN ANIMAL. THE CELEBRATION LASTS UNTIL THE KING SPEAKS...USUALLY AT MIDNIGHT.



THIS YEAR, THE SANGARIS HAVE ANOTHER REASON TO CELEBRATE. KING TUMUCHI HAS JUST SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH LUGAMI, KING OF THE ZIGAFU TRIBE, LONG THE ENEMIES OF THE SANGARIS.



MISS JULIE, YOU DIDN'T HEAR A WORD I SAID!



WHAT'S THAT? OH, YES, THE ZIGAFU PEACE TREATY... VERY GOOD...

LOOK! HERE'S THE ANSWER TO PART OF THE RIDDLE...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MARU IS PUZZLED. THE CALENDAR WE USE IS NOT KNOWN TO HER PEOPLE.

HAVE YOU GUESSED THE ANSWER, DIANA?



YES, I THINK SO!

"KING TUMUCHI MUST HAVE BEEN BORN ON FEBURARY 29TH... THERE WAS NO FEBURARY 29TH THAT YEAR. THEN HIS BIRTHDAY WOULD BE CELEBRATED MARCH 1ST. BUT IT WOULDN'T REALLY BE HIS BIRTHDAY!"



"YOU'RE RIGHT, DIANA!"

SO *TWO* PARTS OF THE RIDDLE ARE TRUE. WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT KING TUMUCHI TONIGHT!

WILL YOU GO AS THE *GIRL PHANTOM* TO THE CELEBRATION?



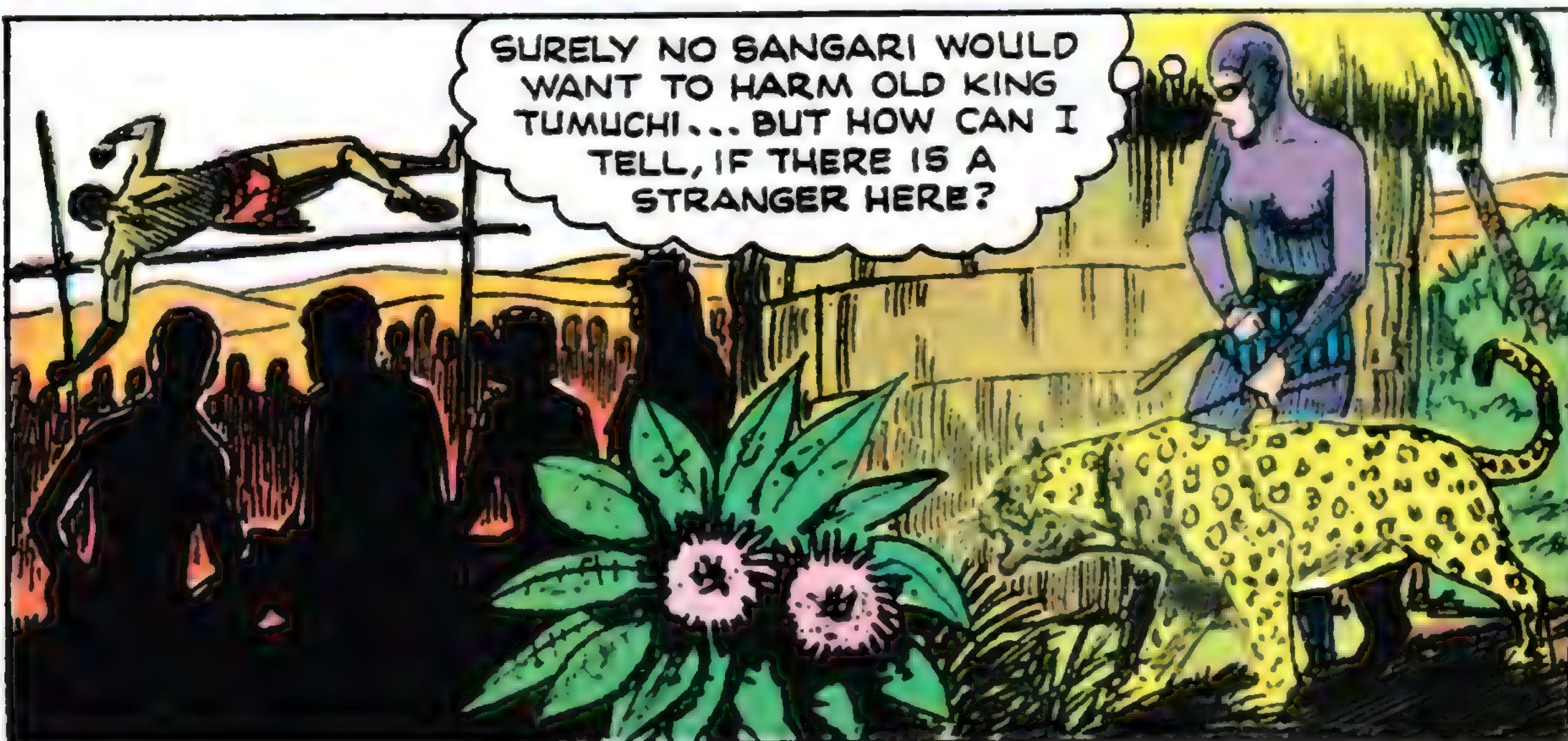
YES... YOU CAN WEAR A LEOPARD-SKIN COSTUME...



...AND FURY CAN COME EXACTLY AS SHE IS!



SURELY NO SANGARI WOULD WANT TO HARM OLD KING TUMUCHI... BUT HOW CAN I TELL, IF THERE IS A STRANGER HERE?





CONTINUED...

THE RIDDLE OF THE WITCH

PART II

READING FROM THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES, DIANA AND OUR PHANTOM LEARN MORE ABOUT JULIE, THE TWIN SISTER OF THE PHANTOM WHO LIVED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. WHEN HER BROTHER WAS AWAY, JULIE BECAME THE GIRL PHANTOM TO MATCH WITS WITH THE WITCH OF THE DARK CLIFFS... WHOSE TERRIBLE RIDDLE SEEMED TO FORECAST DEATH TO THE SANGARI KING ON THE NIGHT OF HIS BIRTHDAY FEAST.

BEFORE I READ ANY MORE, DIANA, DO YOU REMEMBER THE EXACT WORDS OF THE RIDDLE OF THE WITCH?

"TRAGEDY BENEATH THE MOON
PITCH BLACK THE MOONLESS SKY.
NIGHT OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING
BLOOD RED THE DARK EARTH DRIES.
NEAR THE KING, A GHOST SHALL STAND
FAR OFF THE GHOST DOES FLY.
NOT ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING
TONIGHT A KING SHALL DIE."



"AND THOUGH THESE WORDS SEEMED TO MAKE NO SENSE AT FIRST..."



"...IT BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE THE WITCH'S PREDICTION WOULD COME TRUE."



IN THE WITCH'S RIDDLE, "GHOST" MEANT GHOST WHO WALKS—*THE PHANTOM!* A "GHOST" *COULD* BE NEAR-BY AND FAR AWAY AT THE SAME TIME.



"THEN, JULIE DISCOVERED THAT KING TUMUCHI'S BIRTHDAY WAS ON FEBURARY 29TH, WHICH DIDN'T OCCUR ON THE YEAR OF THE STORY. SO, IT *WAS* HIS BIRTHDAY...AND YET IT WASN'T..."



I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PART ABOUT THE MOON. HOW CAN IT BE THERE AND *NOT* THERE? AND WE ALREADY KNOW THAT THERE WAS NO MOON THAT NIGHT.



H'MMM. LET'S READ ON. WHEN WE STOPPED, IT WAS AT THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR KING TUMUCHI.

"AND JULIE'S PET, FURY, HAD JUST CAUGHT SOMEONE HIDING OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE CLEARING."



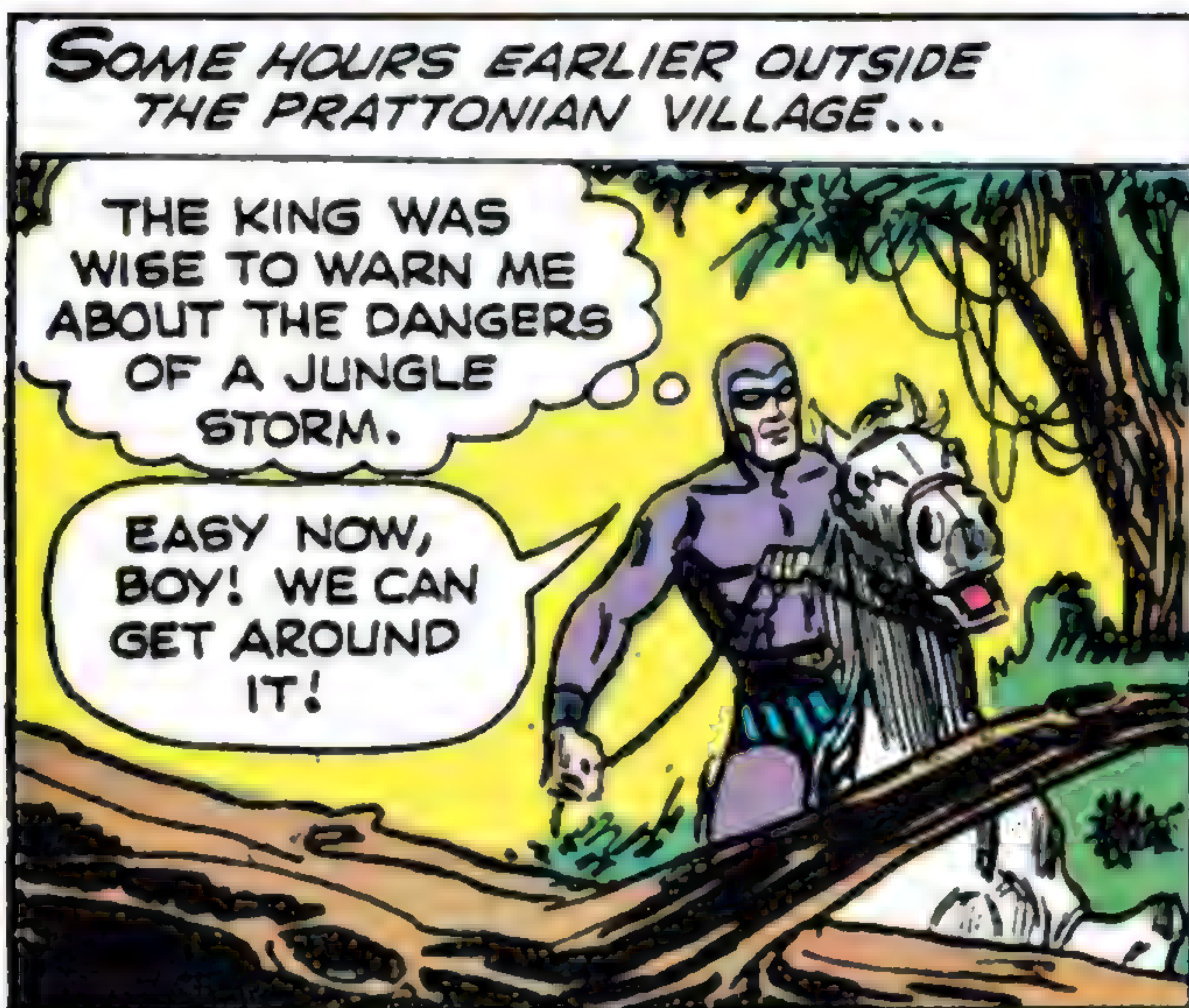
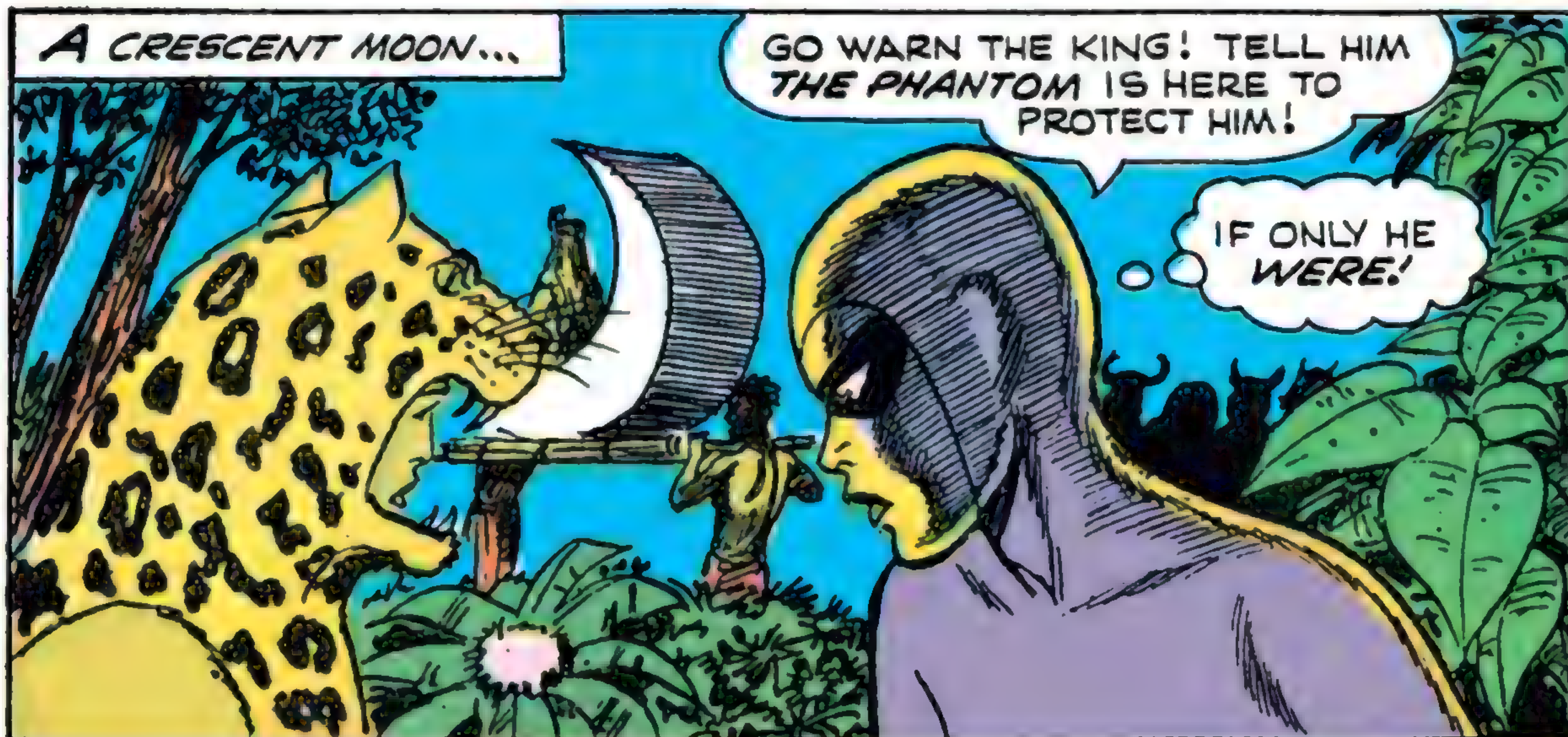
MARU, THE GIRL PHANTOM'S NATIVE COMPANION, RECOGNIZES THE TRIBAL MARK ON THE MAN'S ARM...

HE IS ONE OF THE ZIGAFUS! HIS TRIBE HAS BROKEN THEIR TREATY OF PEACE!

PERHAPS HE WAS TO BE THE KILLER, AND THE DANGER TO THE KING IS PAST. BUT MAYBE *MORE* OF HIS TRIBESMEN ARE HERE!







**BUT HE IS TOO GREATLY
OUTNUMBERED...**



AT THE SANGARI FEAST...

IT IS ONLY BECAUSE *THE PHANTOM* HAS
SENT YOU THAT I BELIEVE SUCH A TALE.
I WILL ASK EVERYONE HERE TO UNMASK.
THEN WE SHALL SEE THE FACES OF
OUR ATTACKERS.



THE KING
IS GOING TO
BREAK THE
SILENCE!

WHAT IS
WRONG?

QUIET!
LISTEN
TO HIM!

**WHEN KING TUMUCHI SPEAKS,
THE HIDDEN ATTACKERS TRY TO
ESCAPE...**



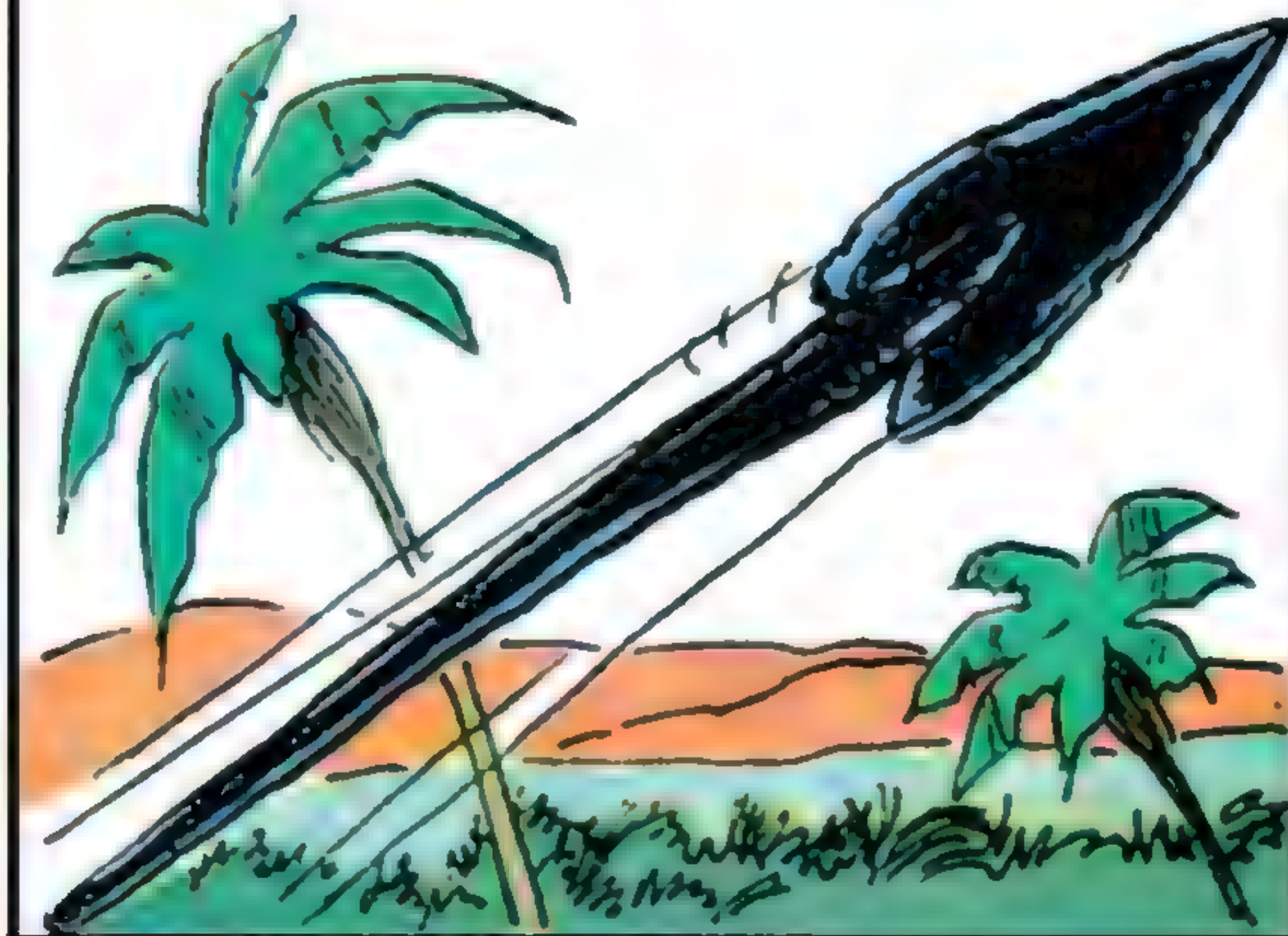
**ONE OF THEM TAKES
AIM AT THE KING...**



THE GIRL PHANTOM MOVES
LIKE LIGHTNING AND STRIKES
LIKE A THUNDERBOLT!



THROWN OFF-BALANCE, THE
ATTACKER HURLS HIS SPEAR
WILDLY...



OVER THERE!

A-A-AIE-E-EH!

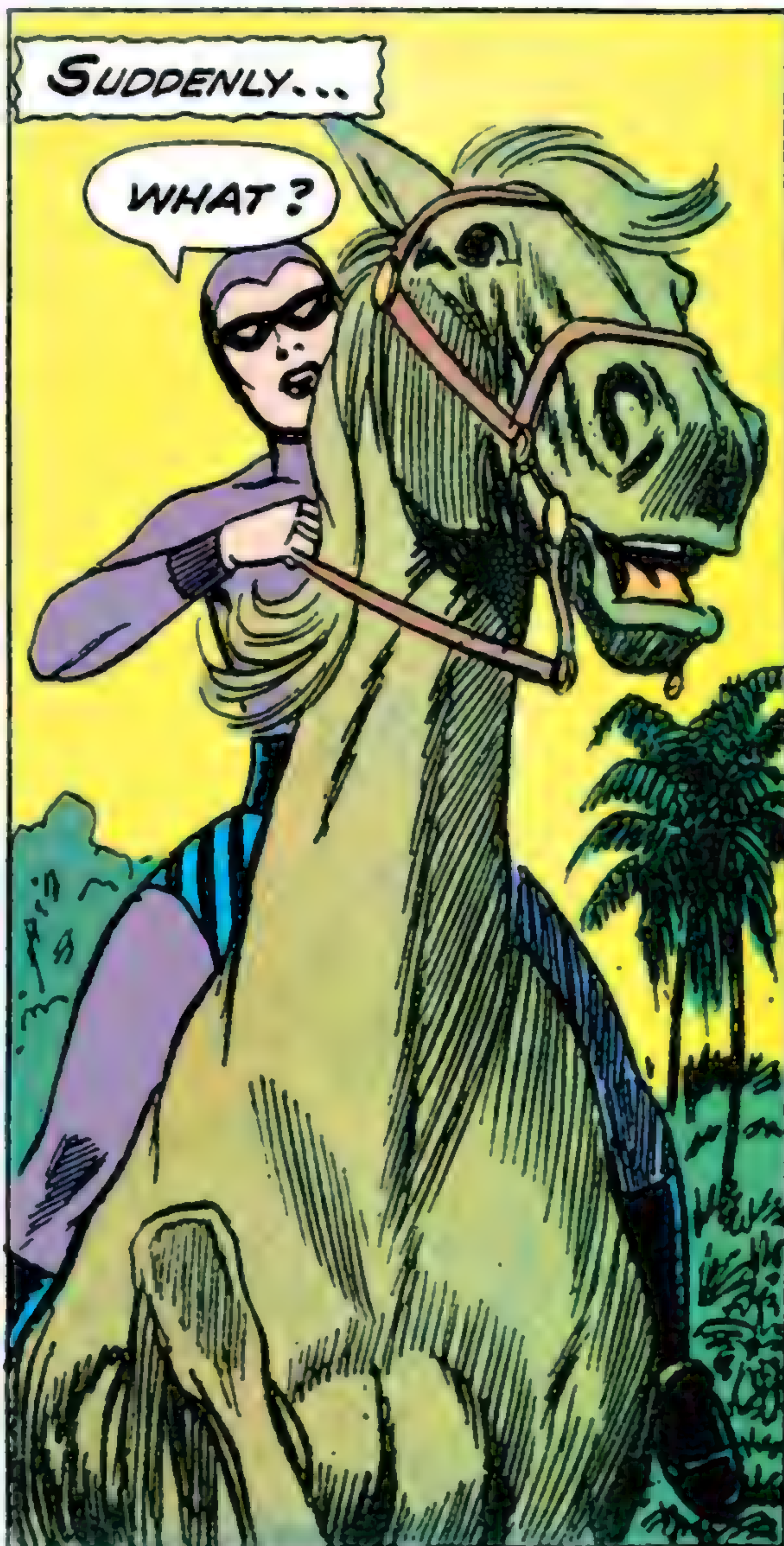


IS IT A SANGARI?

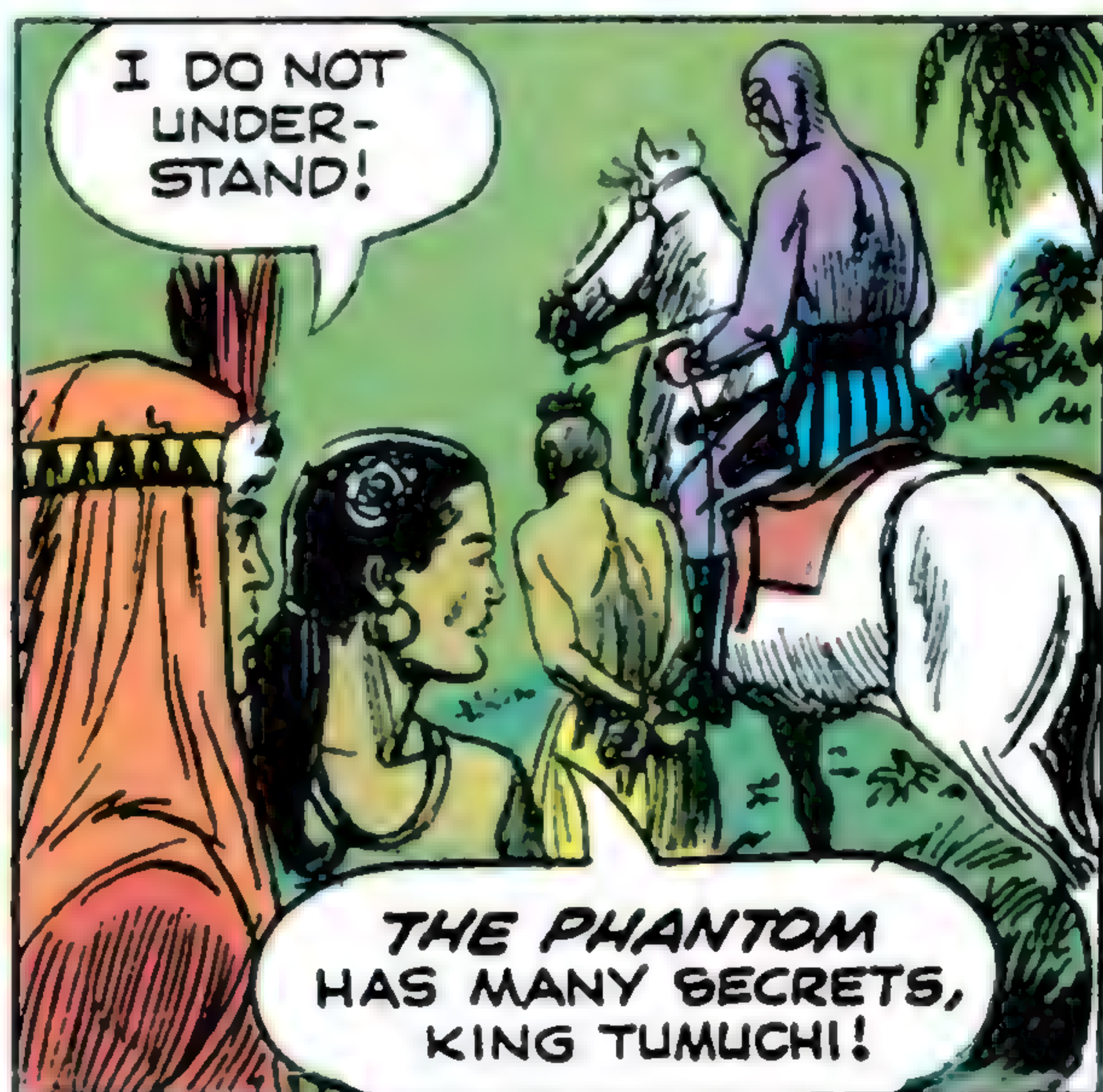


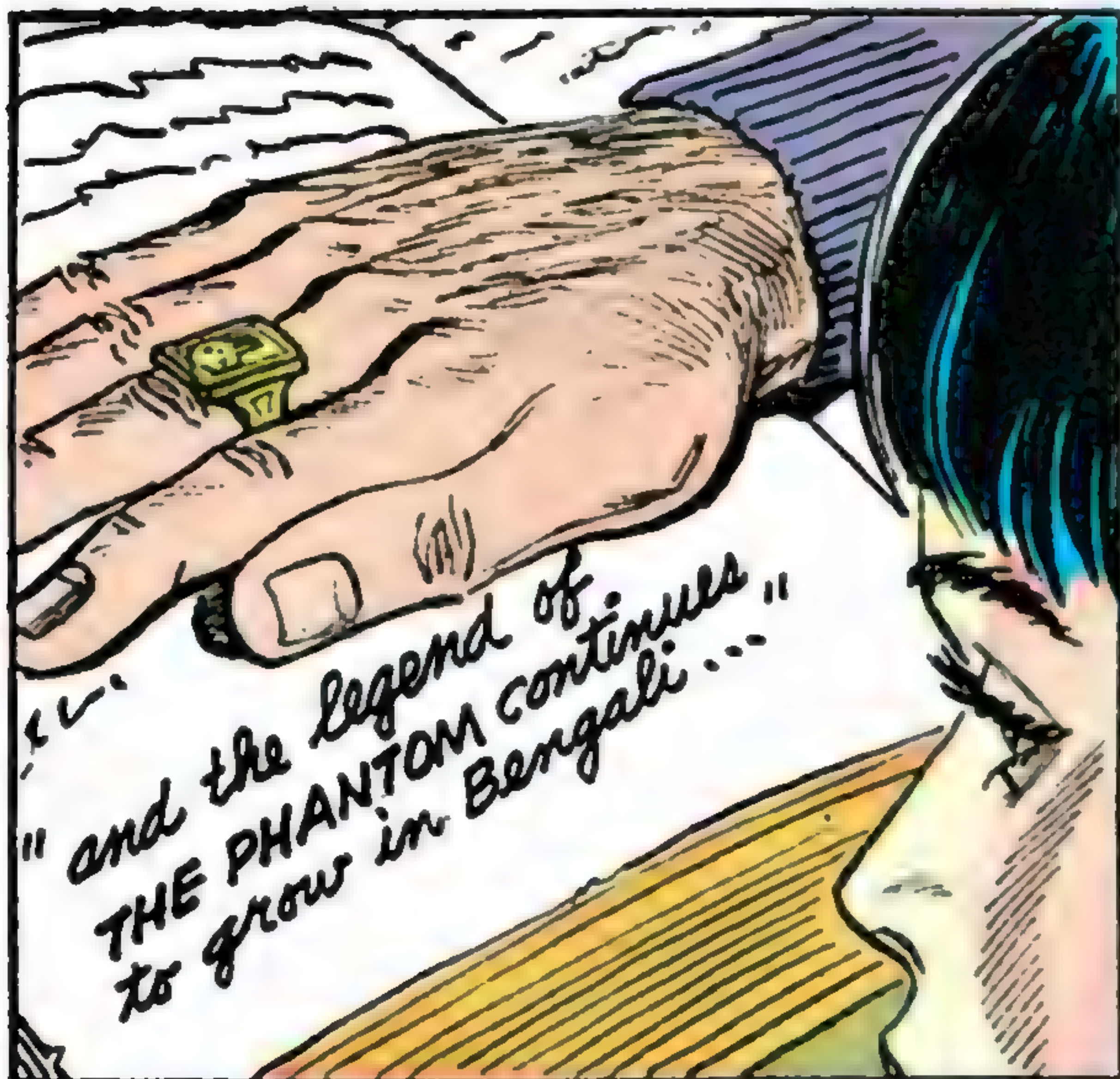
IT IS ONE OF THE ZIGAFUS...
HE IS DEAD! KILLED BY ONE
OF HIS OWN PEOPLE!













AND WHEN THE MEN HAVE EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED AT THEIR DIGGINGS...

SO THAT IS THE STORY, PHANTOM! THE PHARAOH, ER, PHANTOM HAS TAKEN OVER THAT TEMPLE ON THE HILLSIDE! I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH THINGS... BUT WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THIS MAN IS, HE IS A PERSON OF FRIGHTENING POWERS! I... CAN NOT EXPLAIN IT!



THANK YOU! PERHAPS BEFORE TOO LONG I SHALL BE ABLE TO!

AS THE PHANTOM MOVES FORWARD, AN EXCITED, FEAR-FILLED CROWD FOLLOWS IN HIS WAKE...

THE PHANTOM FROM BENGALI... HE SEEKS OUT THE PHARAOH PHANTOM! NOW WE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH FOR CERTAIN!

A TEMPLE TO RULE FROM! THIS CHARACTER HASN'T MISSED A TRICK! AND... WHAT'S THAT?...

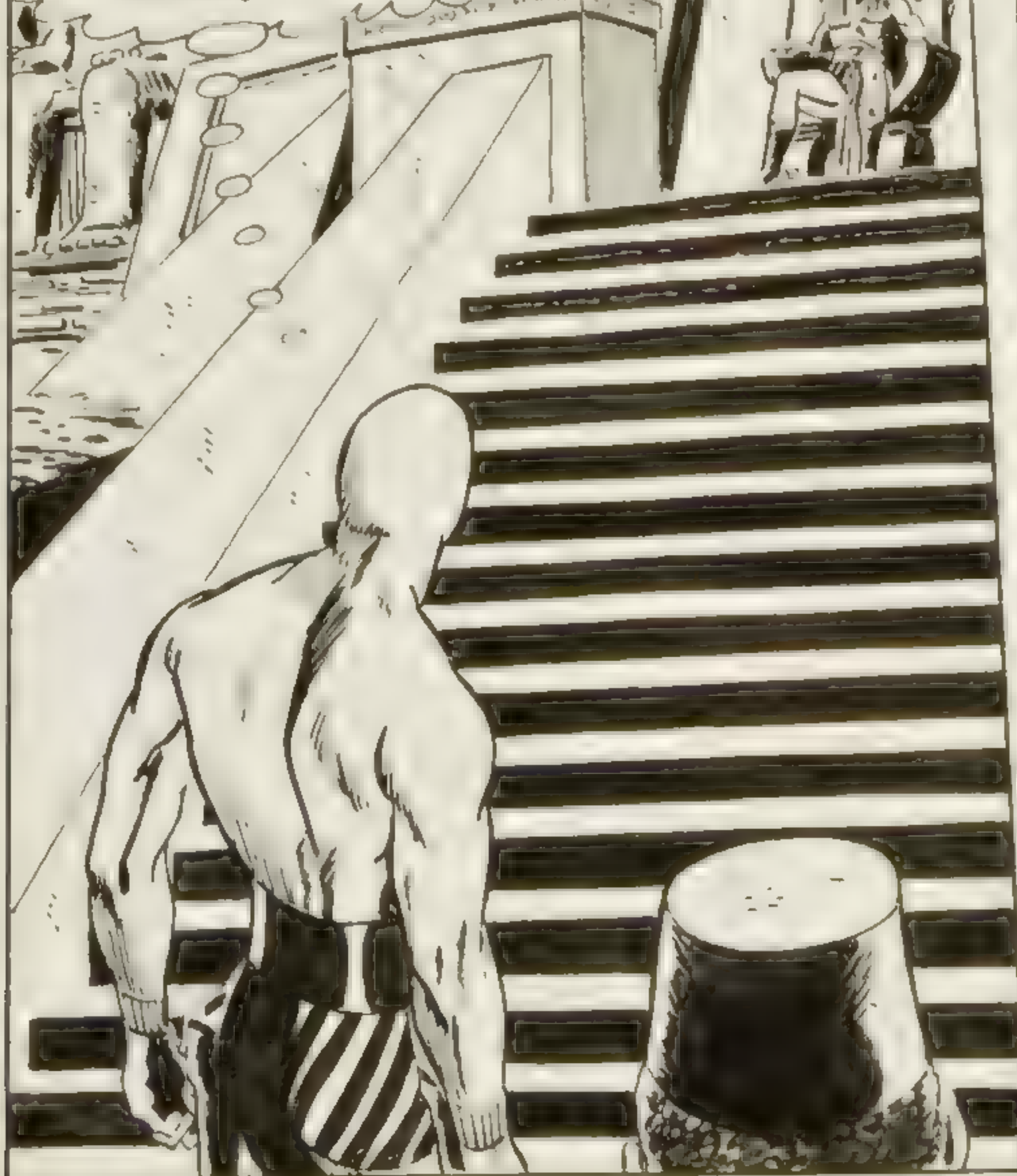


A FIRE OF ANGER FLASHES IN THE PHANTOM'S EYES AS HE MOUNTS THE TEMPLE STEPS...

ALL RIGHT, PHARAOH, YOU'VE DESECRATED A FOUR HUNDRED YEAR OLD NAME! I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME EXPLANATIONS... FAST!!

SO... THE IMPOSTER FINALLY ARRIVES!

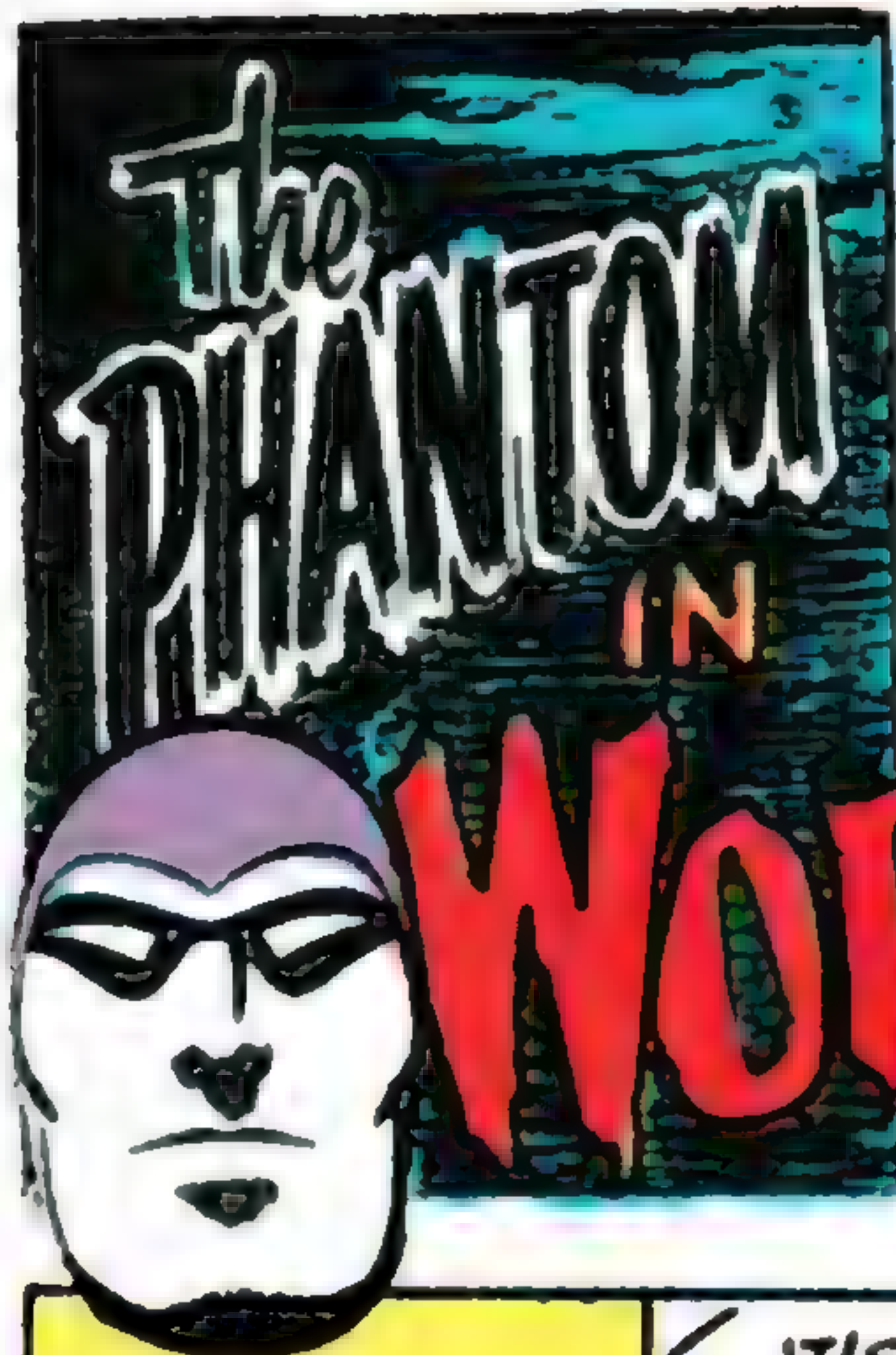
A-A SKULL THRONE... DONE IN EGYPTIAN DESIGN! AND THERE'S THE "KING" PHANTOM NOW!



Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM





The COLD FIRE

WORSHIPPERS

DIAMONDS! TO THE NATIVES OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE, NOTHING MORE THAN A THING OF BEAUTY! BUT TO OUTSIDERS, A CHANCE AT WEALTH AND POWER! — A CHANCE WORTH ANY RISK, INCLUDING **MURDER!**

NO ONE ENTERS THE JUNGLE UNNOTICED BY THE MEN OF THE JUNGLE PATROL! USUALLY, THEIR WATCHFULNESS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF STRANGERS — SOMETIMES IT'S THE NATIVES WHO NEED PROTECTION!

IT'S THEM ALL RIGHT! BURT KENYON AND EILEEN MONKER! WITH TWO OTHERS! LAST TIME WE HEARD ABOUT THEM, THEY WERE STIRRING UP THE WITCH DOCTORS IN AUROOMA COUNTRY!



I THINK WE BETTER FOLLOW THAT JEEP! NO TELLING WHAT THEY'RE UP TO THIS TIME!

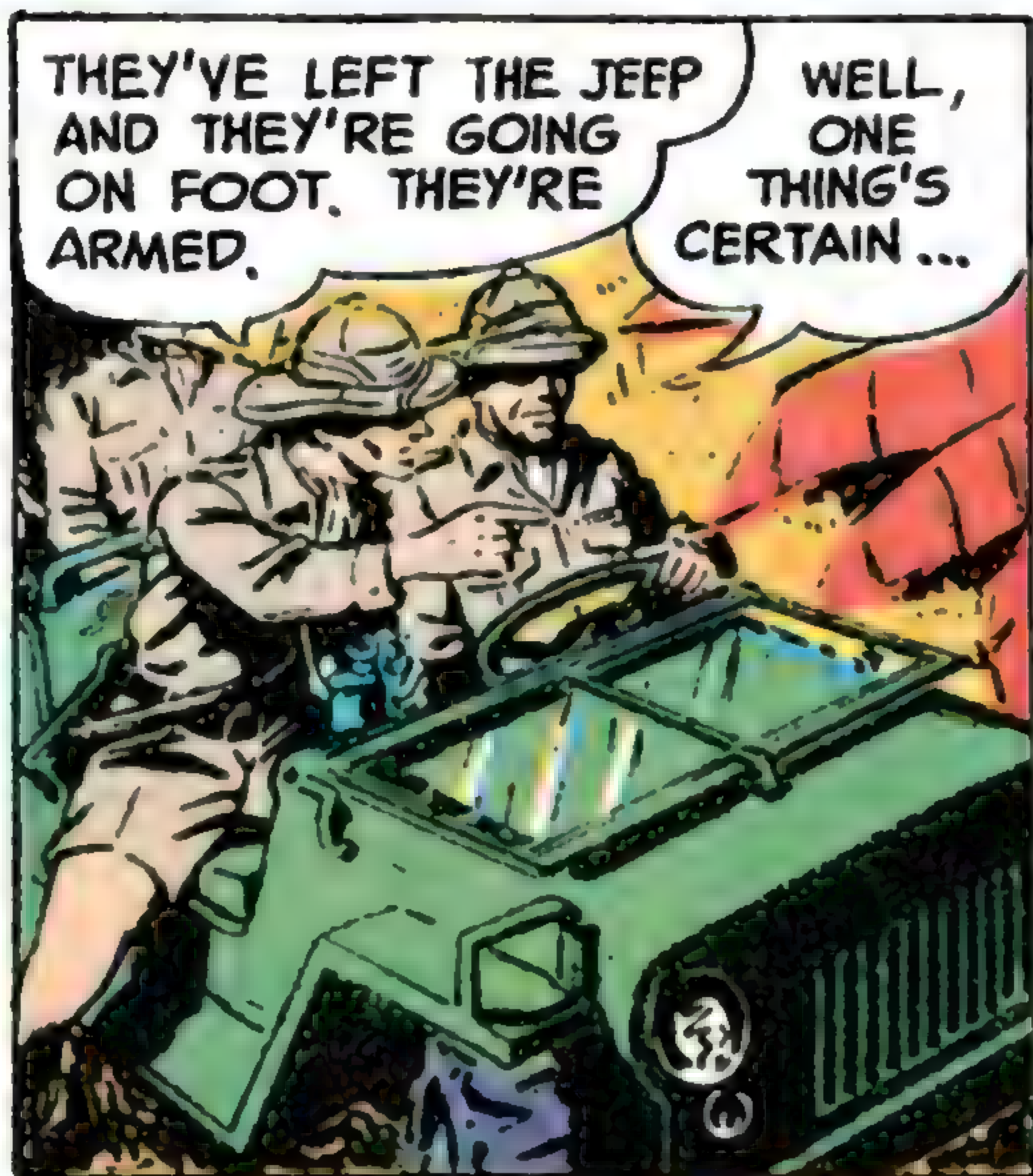
RIGHT! I WISH WE HAD SOME HELP, THOUGH! THESE ARE TOUGH CUSTOMERS!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, THE PHANTOM AND DIANA PICK UP THE TRAIL!









WELL, WELL! THE LOVELY EILEEN MANKER. I *KNEW* IT WASN'T SAFE TO SELL DIAMONDS TO THEM!



OK, FREDDY. WE'LL MAKE THEM SORRY THEY POKED THEIR NOSES INTO *OUR* BUSINESS! SEND A MESSAGE TO BIG JOHN TO BRING THEM IN!

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE BIG JOHN ON THE OTHER SIDE!



A PATROL OFFICER! HE LOOKS THOUGH HE'S FOLLOWING THOSE FOUR... HE *CAN'T* BE ALONE!

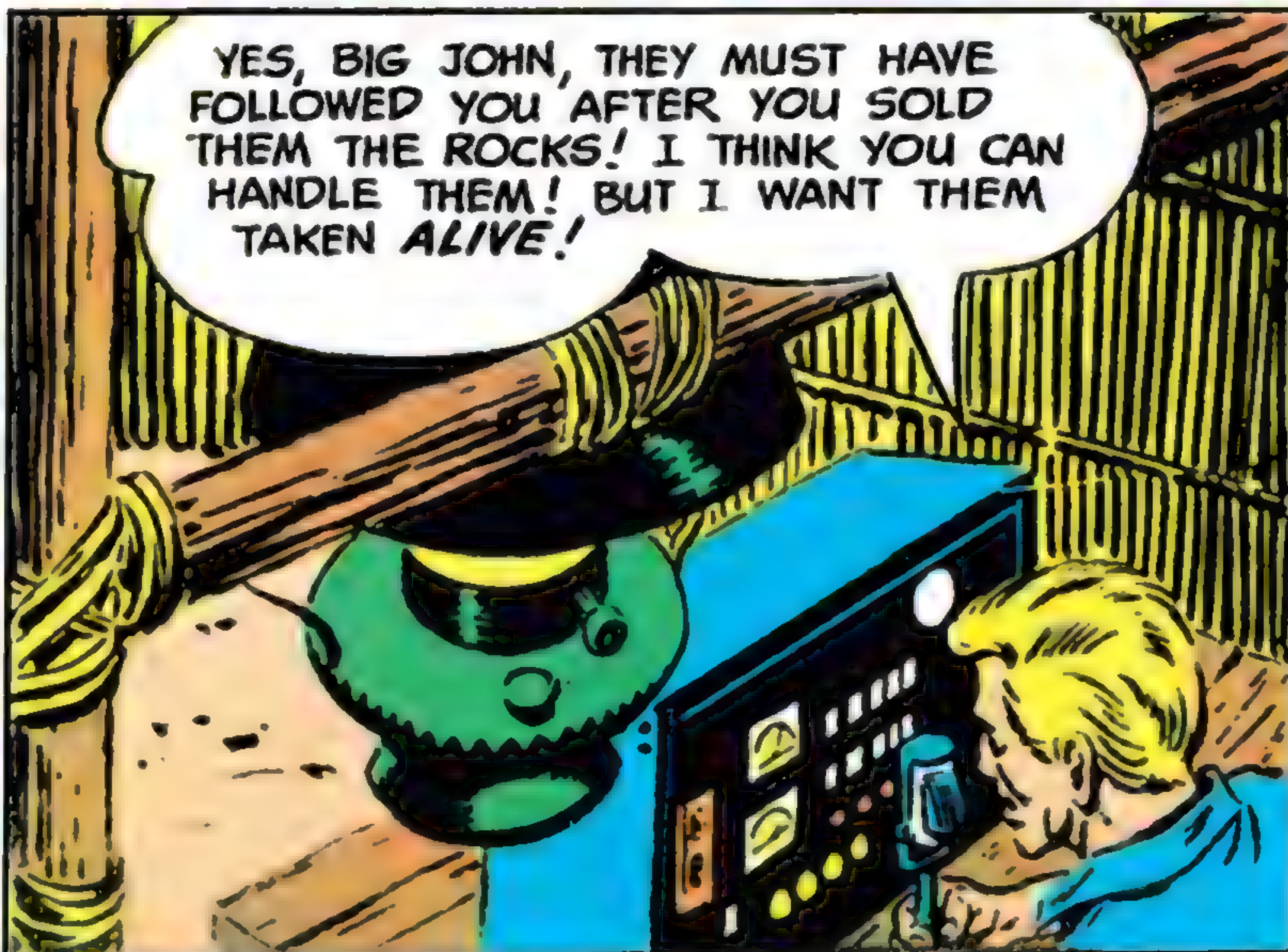


THERE'S THE ISLAND! NOW, HOW DO WE GET OVER THERE!

I THINK THAT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR US, BURT! JUST HAVE PATIENCE!



WHATEVER HAPPENS FROM HERE ON, REMEMBER — WE'RE *LOST* IF WE DON'T STICK TOGETHER!



YES, BIG JOHN, THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED YOU AFTER YOU SOLD THEM THE ROCKS! I THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THEM! BUT I WANT THEM TAKEN *ALIVE*!

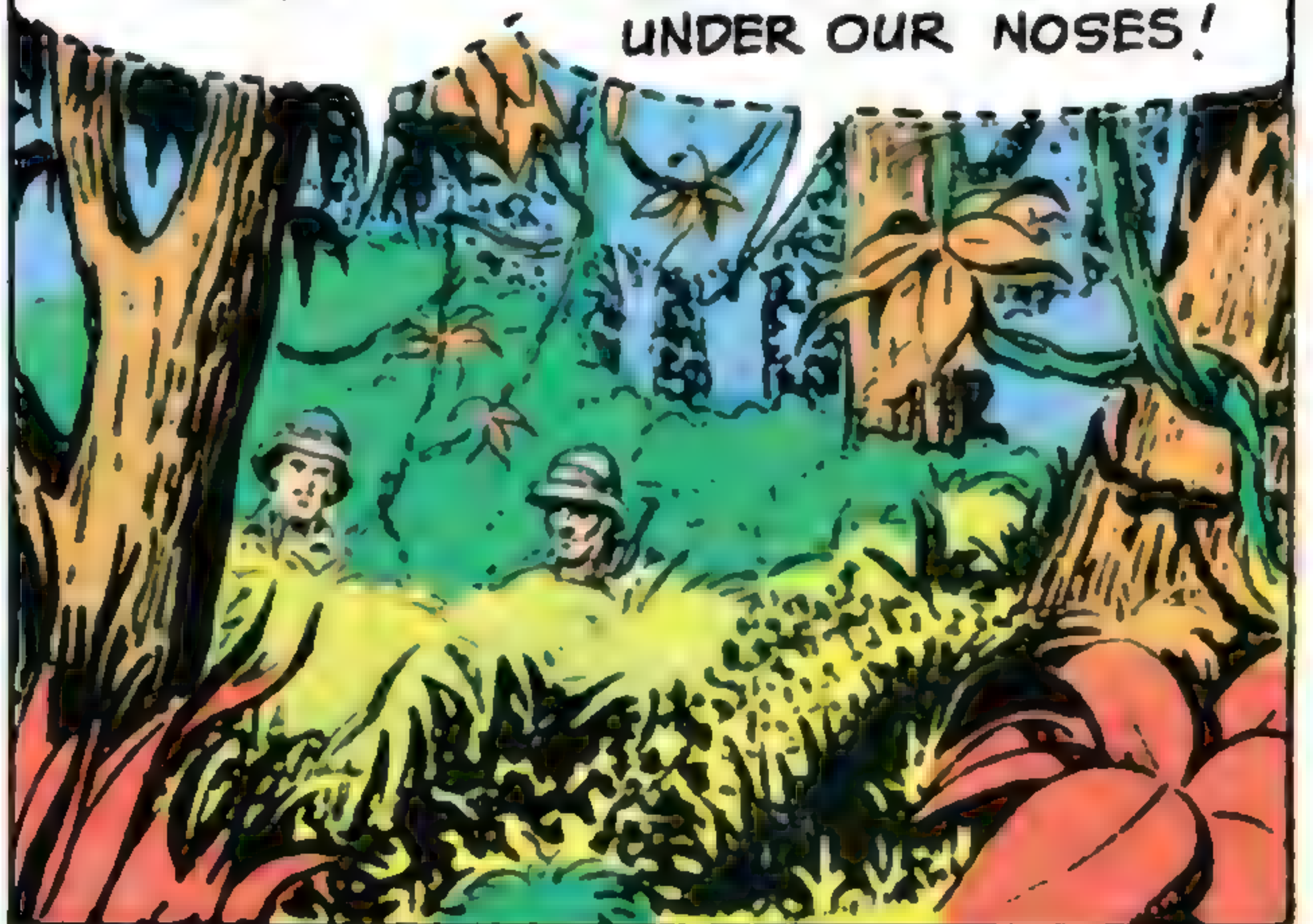
THE CAPTURE IS EASIER THAN PREDICTED!

I SUPPOSE STOUT WANTS US ON THE ISLAND. DO WE HAVE TO SWIM?

OH, WE'VE GOT ALL THE MODERN CONVENIENCES OUT HERE! LISTEN



IT LOOKS LIKE WE BUMPED INTO SOMETHING; WHAT CAN WE DO, BIG! HEY, WHAT'S THAT? SERGEANT? THEY'LL TAKE THEM AWAY RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!



I'D BETTER GET OVER TO THE ISLAND! I'LL USE THE SECRET PASSAGE!



BUT I CAN'T LET THE PATROL INTERFERE! I'LL LEAVE THEM THE MESSAGE!

THE PHANTOM WRITES A HASTY MESSAGE ON A PIECE OF BARK, THEN MOVES OFF SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY...

I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T HARMED THE NATIVES!



...HE COMES TO A CLIFF FACE WHERE HE ROLLS AWAY A HUGE BOULDER, OPENING UP THE DARK TUNNEL LEADING UNDER THE RIVER...



THE LAST TIME I CAME
HERE WAS FOR THE
CORONATION OF THEIR
KING, SABAHN.



IT DOESN'T TAKE
LONG TO FIND OUT
WHAT IS HAPPENING
ON THE ISLAND
OF DIAMONDS.

JUST AS I
THOUGHT!
THEY'VE FORCED
THE NATIVES
TO WORK FOR
THEM!

**UNDER THE ARMED GUARDS THE
NATIVES ARE CRUSHING ...**



GET MOYING,
GOOD FOR
NOTHING!

**..... AND PANNING THE GRAVEL, THE PHANTOM
MAKES SURE THEY SEE HIM!**



I HOPE THEY DON'T
GIVE ME AWAY
BEFORE I CAN
TAKE CARE OF THOSE
GUARDS!

**A QUICK CHECK TELLS HIM THERE ARE
ONLY FOUR MEN WATCHING THE
NATIVE WORKERS.**



THE HELICOPTER'S
COMING BACK... THAT'LL
DISTRACT THEM, BUT
I'D BETTER MOVE
FAST!



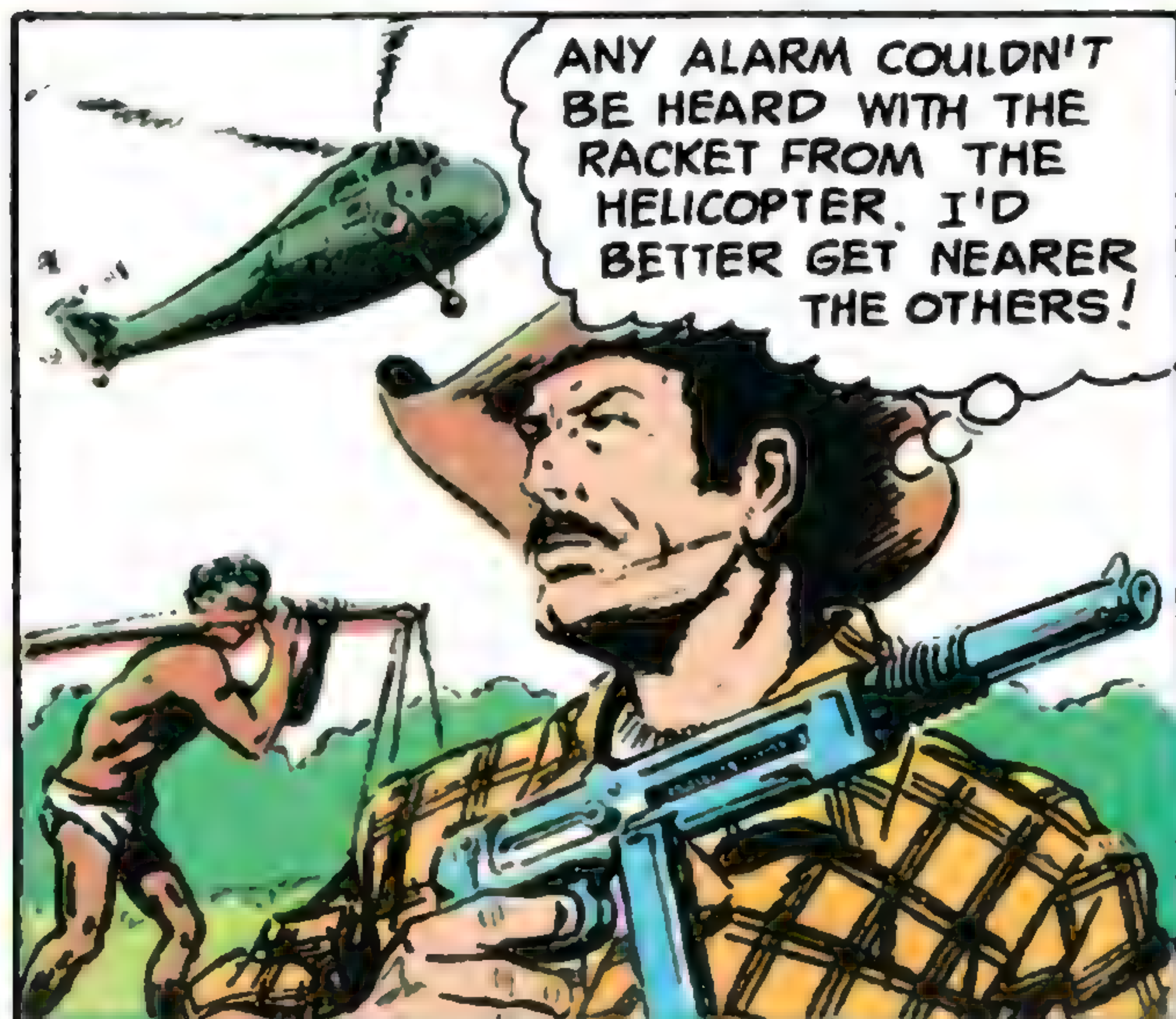
TAKE HIM, MEN OF THE COLD FIRE! ONE OF YOU PUT ON HIS CLOTHES!



WHAT'S GOING ON?! THOSE LAZY NATIVES NEVER WORKED *THIS* HARD!



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF IT! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!



ANY ALARM COULDN'T BE HEARD WITH THE RACKET FROM THE HELICOPTER. I'D BETTER GET NEARER THE OTHERS!



THE THUG TURNS TO JOIN THE OTHERS... BUT FINDS HE'S TOO LATE!





WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THEIR LEADERS! MEANWHILE, YOUR MEN CAN KEEP RIGHT ON WORKING AS BEFORE ... IT WILL HELP AVOID SUSPICION ...



WE'LL SEND THE PRISONERS AND A MESSAGE TO THE PATROL. MEANWHILE, I'LL GO TO YOUR VILLAGE! THEIR LEADER MUST BE THERE.



I'D BETTER TAKE FOUR OF YOUR BEST MEN WITH ME, ARMED WITH THE OVERSEERS' MACHINE GUN!



BUT THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THOSE WEAPONS...

BUT THE **BANDITS** DON'T KNOW THAT, AND ALSO THE MACHINE GUNS WON'T BE LOADED, JUST IN CASE!



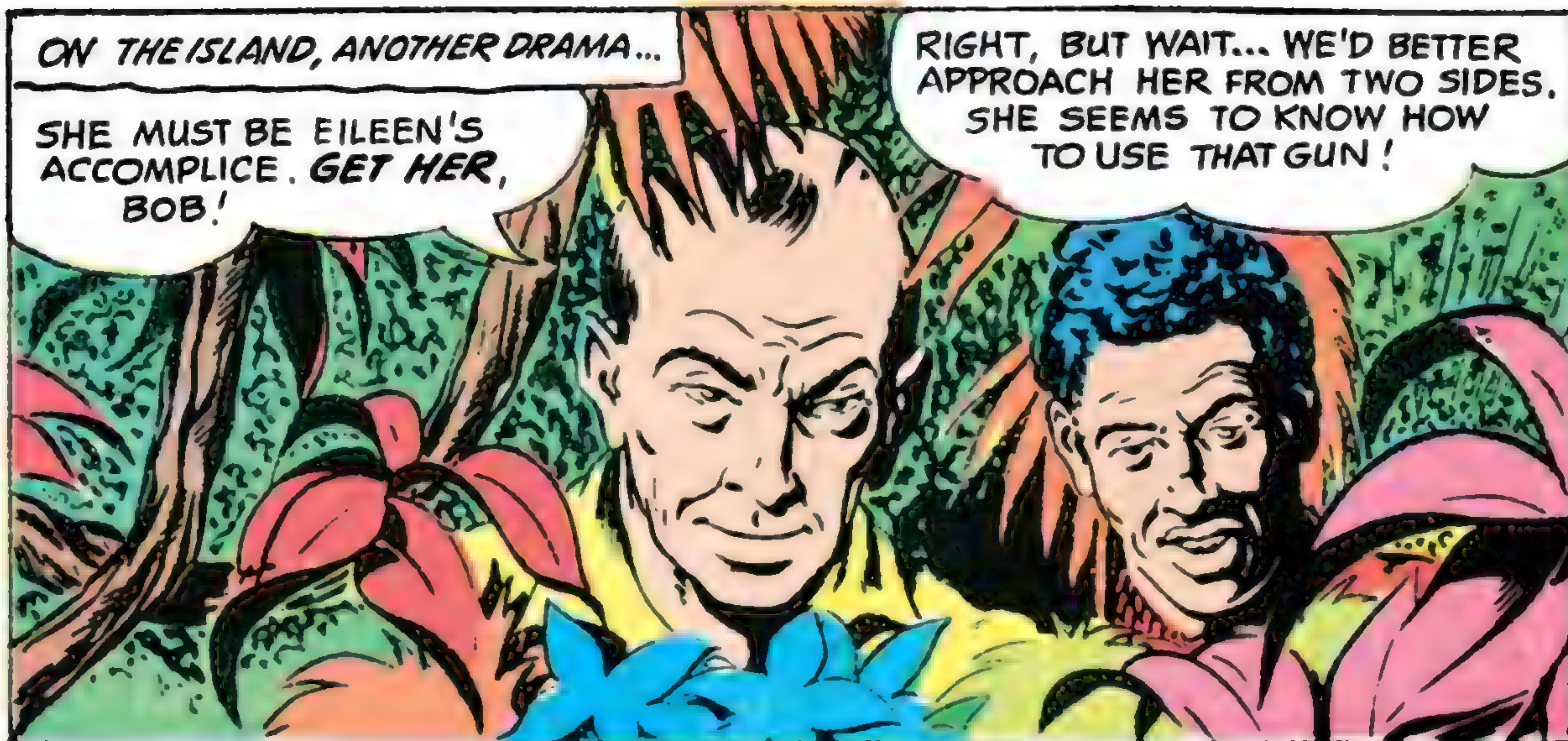
I UNDERSTAND! YOU WILL CONVINCE THEM BY FRIGHTENING THEM!

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW LET'S CHOOSE THE MEN!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, DIANA IS IN TROUBLE!

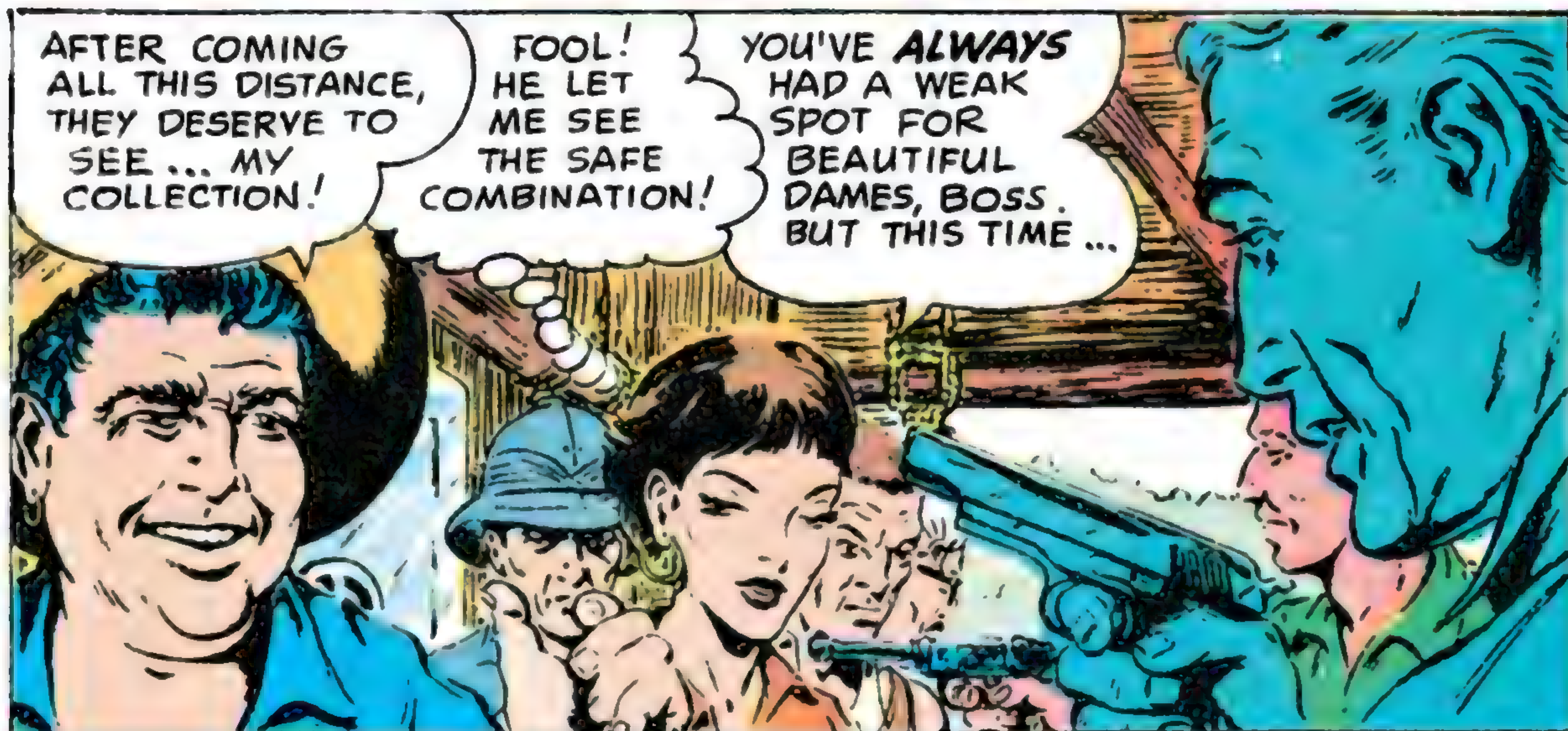




ON THE ISLAND, ANOTHER DRAMA...

SHE MUST BE EILEEN'S ACCOMPLICE. **GET HER, BOB!**

RIGHT, BUT WAIT... WE'D BETTER APPROACH HER FROM TWO SIDES. SHE SEEMS TO KNOW HOW TO USE THAT GUN!



AFTER COMING ALL THIS DISTANCE, THEY DESERVE TO SEE ... MY COLLECTION!

FOOL! HE LET ME SEE THE SAFE COMBINATION!

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A WEAK SPOT FOR BEAUTIFUL DAMES, BOSS. BUT THIS TIME ...

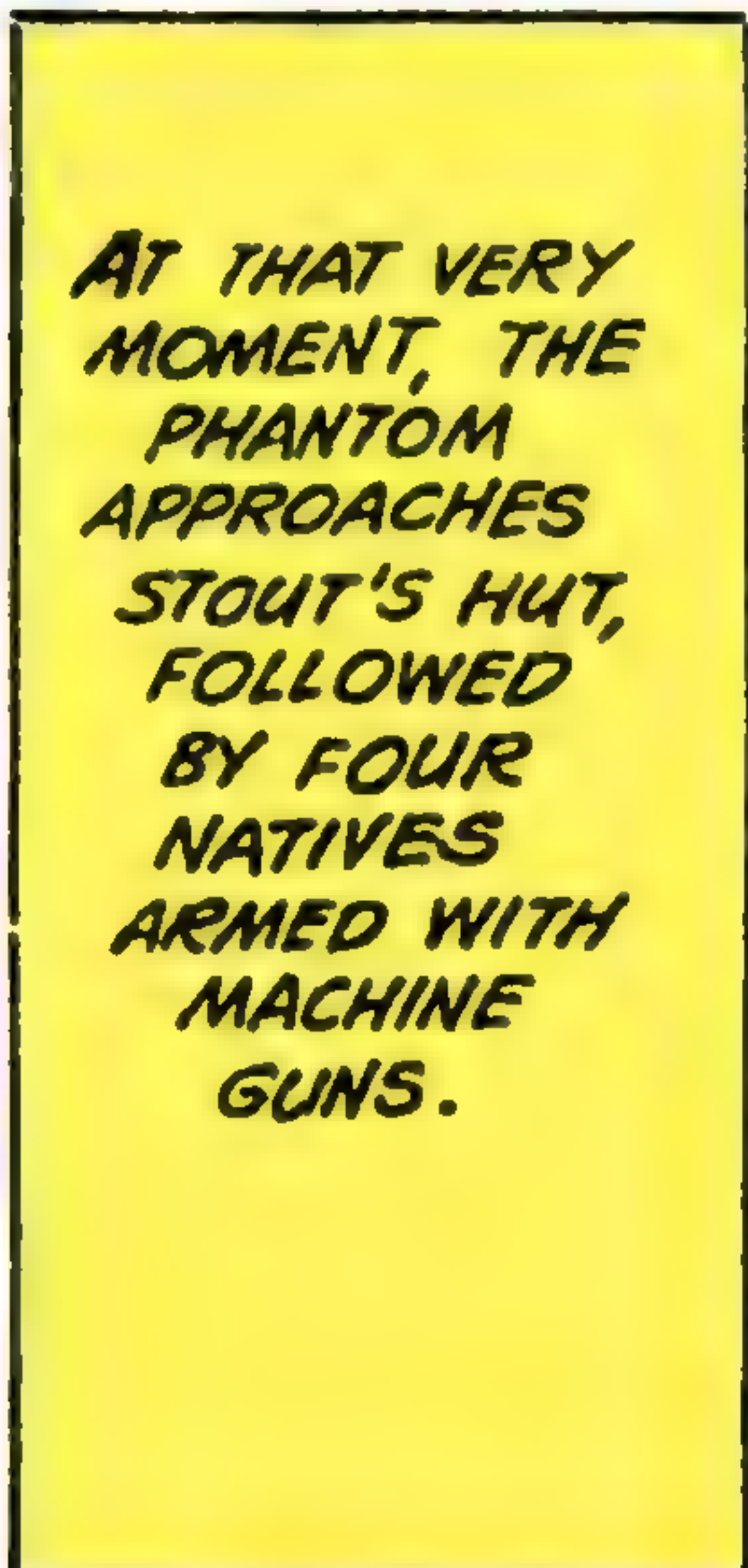


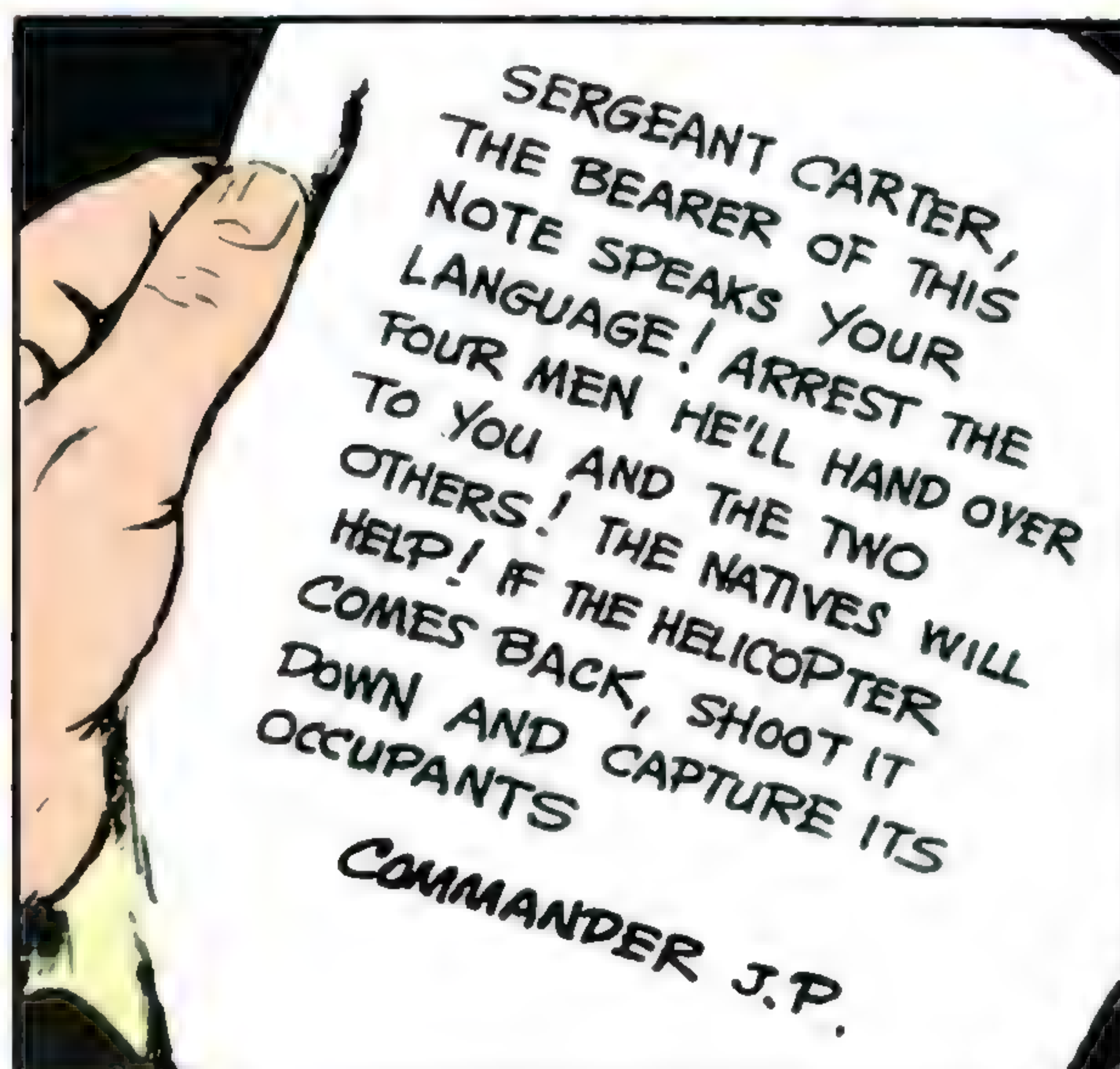
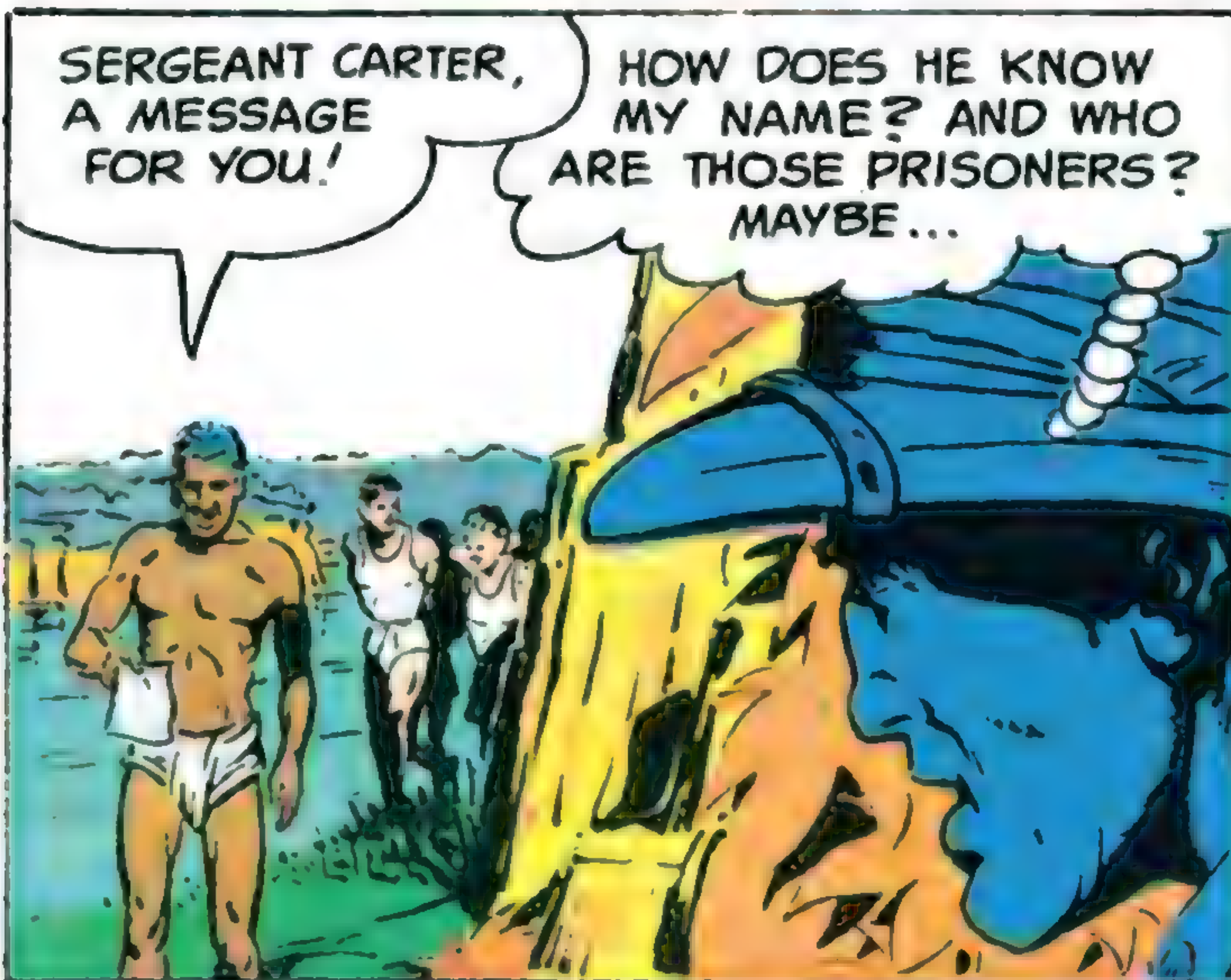
NOW, EILEEN, I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND IN THE WORLD, BEFORE I CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR GOOD!

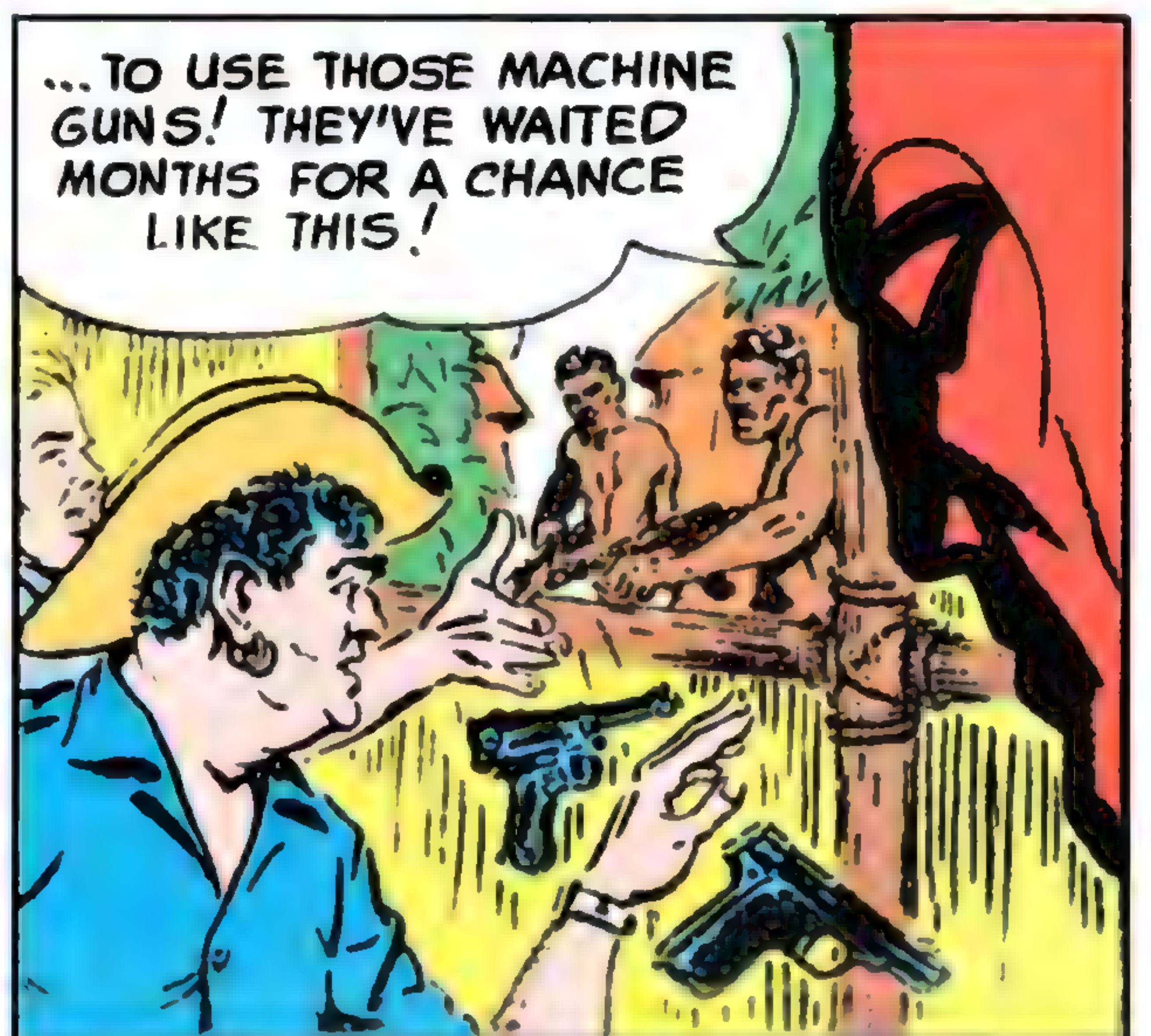
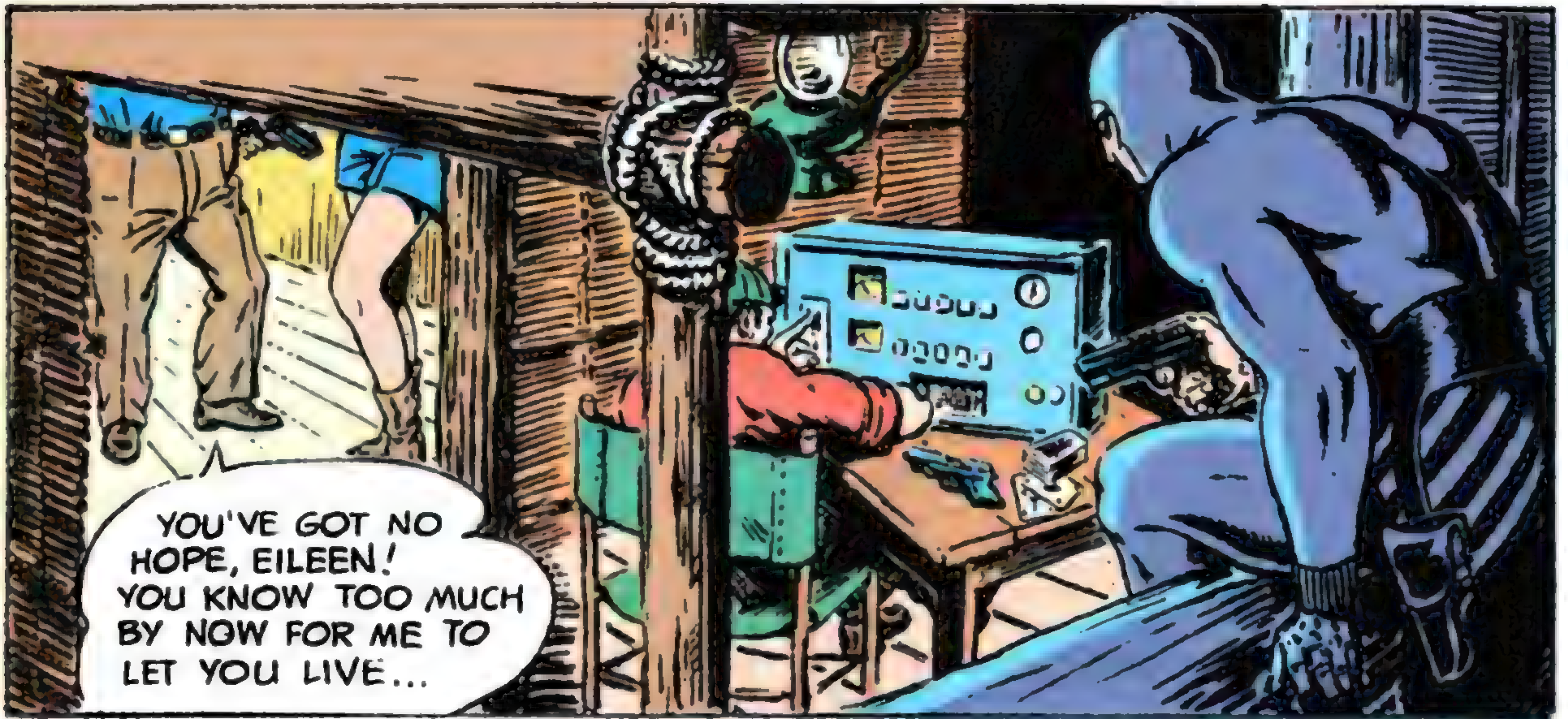
YOU MEAN ... YOU PLAN TO **KILL** US.



BOSS, BIG JOHN CAUGHT **ANOTHER** DAME. HE DOESN'T KNOW **WHO** SHE IS! WHAT SHOULD HE DO WITH HER!







OUTSIDE THE HELICOPTER IS ARRIVING AGAIN! THE PHANTOM WATCHES IT FROM A WINDOW IN THE HUT...



DIANA!

SO THE DAME'S A FRIEND OF HIS!



ALL OF YOU KEEP QUIET AND *DON'T MOVE!*



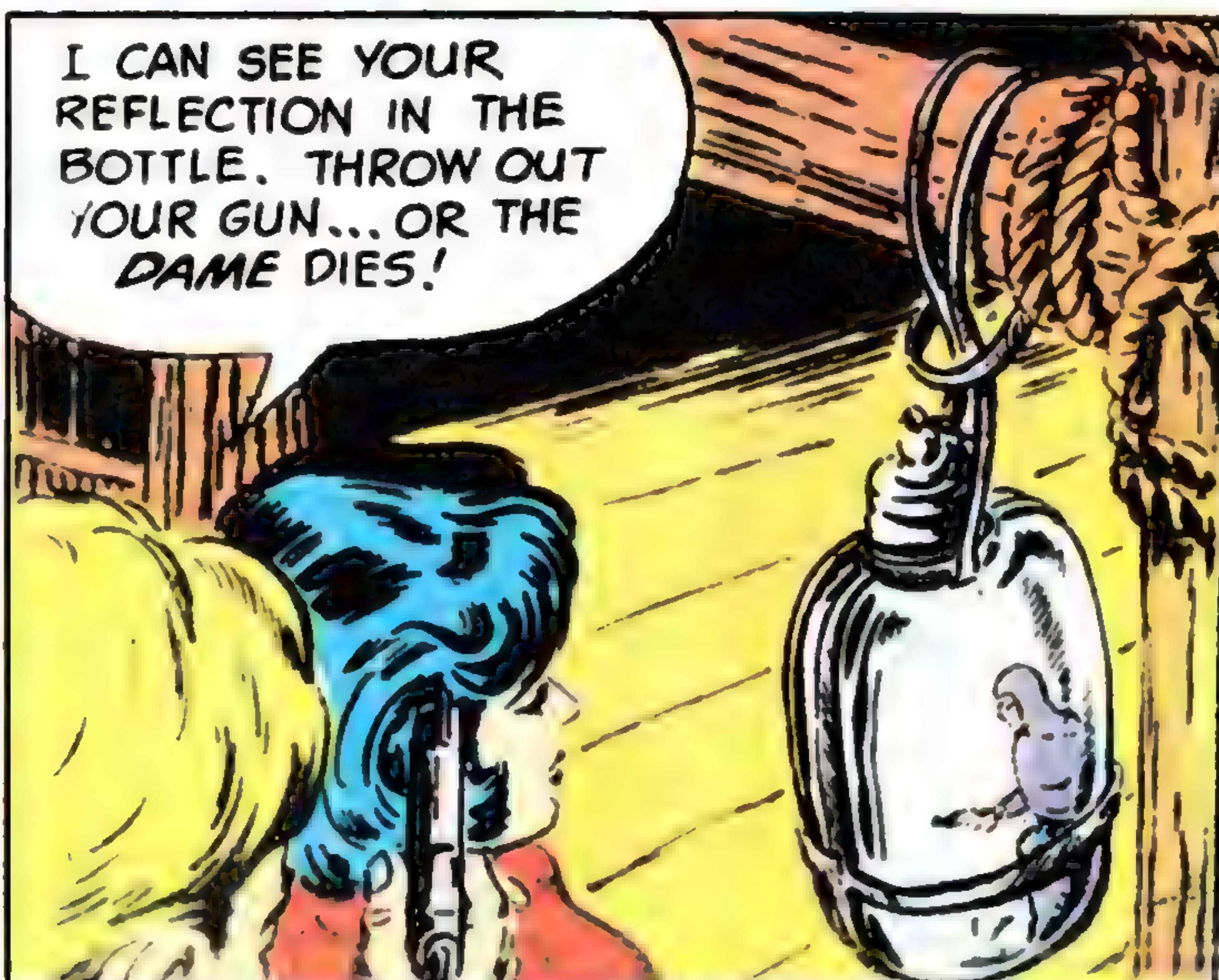
WAIT A MINUTE, BABY!

?



THE HELICOPTER PILOT SUDDENLY STOPS IN HIS TRACKS!

I CAN SEE YOUR REFLECTION IN THE BOTTLE. THROW OUT YOUR GUN... OR THE DAME DIES!





IN

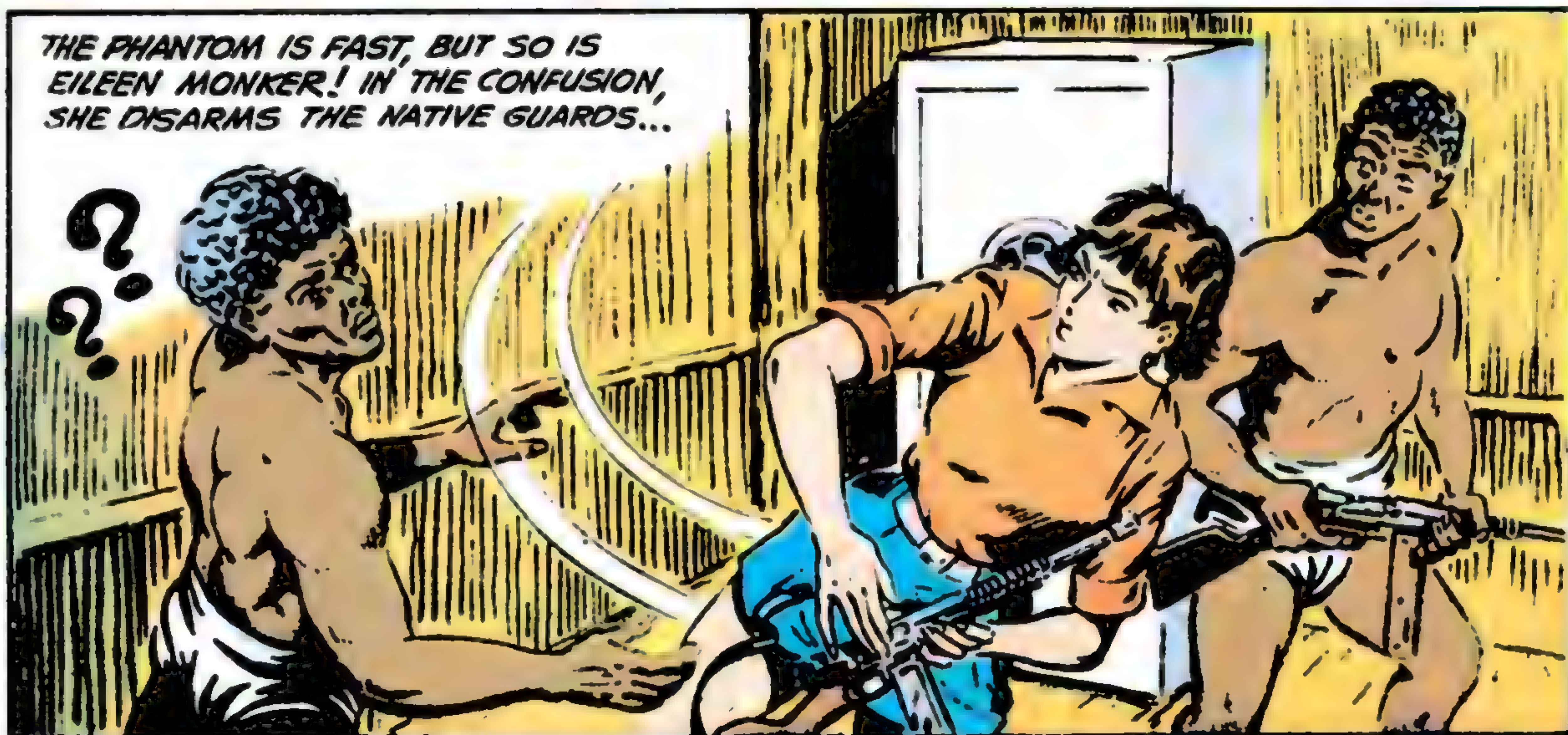
The COLD FIRE WORSHIPPERS

PART II

AS THE PHANTOM ROUNDS UP A GANG OF DIAMOND THIEVES, ONE OF THEM MANAGES TO CAPTURE DIANA PALMER! HE ATTEMPTS TO USE HER AS A PAWN TO SAVE HIS FRIENDS, BUT DOESN'T RECKON WITH THE LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS!



THE PHANTOM IS FAST, BUT SO IS EILEEN MONKER! IN THE CONFUSION, SHE DISARMS THE NATIVE GUARDS...





ALL RIGHT,
EVERYBODY—
NOW IT'S *MY*
PARTY!

ALTHOUGH THE MACHINE
GUNS ARE NOT LOADED,
THE PHANTOM OBEYS...



YOU WIN, EILEEN!
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH
MACHINE GUNS!

GOOD JOB,
EILEEN!
NOW UNTIE
US!



WATCH OUT, EILEEN. SO FAR YOU'VE
DONE NOTHING YOU CAN BE
ARRESTED FOR!



I'VE HEARD OF YOU,
PHANTOM! YOU'D
HAVE ME FALL IN A
TRAP... IT'S BETTER
THIS WAY!

THIS ISN'T LIKE
HIM! WHY
DOESN'T HE
FIGHT BACK?



DO AS YOU LIKE. BUT SOON
YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD
LISTENED TO ME! THEN
IT'LL BE TOO LATE!



SOON I'LL BE A LONG WAY FROM HERE. UNTIE MY FRIENDS. THEN YOU'LL BE TIED, WITH YOUR GIRL FRIEND AND YOUR NATIVE PALS.



THE WOMAN'S ORDERS ARE SOON CARRIED OUT, BUT EILEEN HASN'T FINISHED...

BURT, YOU SEE TO THE SAFE! TAKE EVERYTHING!

BEAUTIFUL, EILEEN!



HEY, GIVE ME A HAND, SOMEONE! THESE ROCKS ARE HEAVY!

I WILL. JOHNNY'S GONE TO START UP THE HELICOPTER!



YOU...!!! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! OH, YOU'LL PAY PLENTY!

I'LL KEEP THIS FOR MYSELF... AS SOUVENIR OF YOU, STOUT!



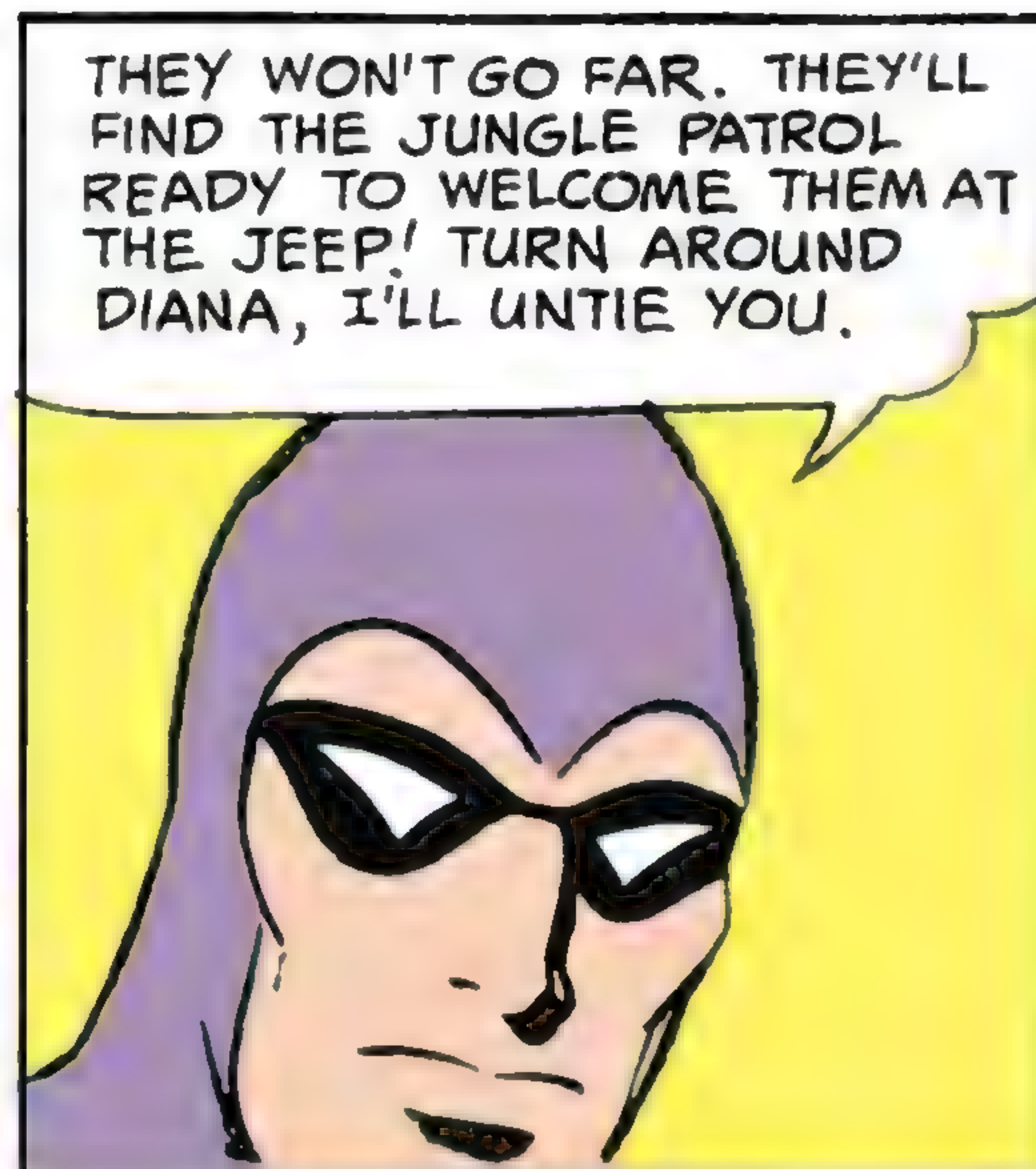
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING... AND, BY THE WAY, I'VE FIXED THE RADIO. IT'S NO GOOD TRYING TO WARN BIG JOHN! GOOD BYE!

LET'S GO, EILEEN. THE HELICOPTER'S READY.



YOU WON'T GET FAR IN THAT.

THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, PHANTOM! WE'VE STILL GOT OUR JEEP, REMEMBER?





ACROSS THE RIVER, THE HELICOPTER SWOOPS INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF THE JUNGLE PATROL!

ONE BY ONE THEY'RE WIPING US OUT. IF ONLY I COULD GET TO THE RADIO!

JUST TRY IT! THESE SAVAGES LOOK AS THOUGH THEY'D LIKE TO TEAR US TO PIECES!

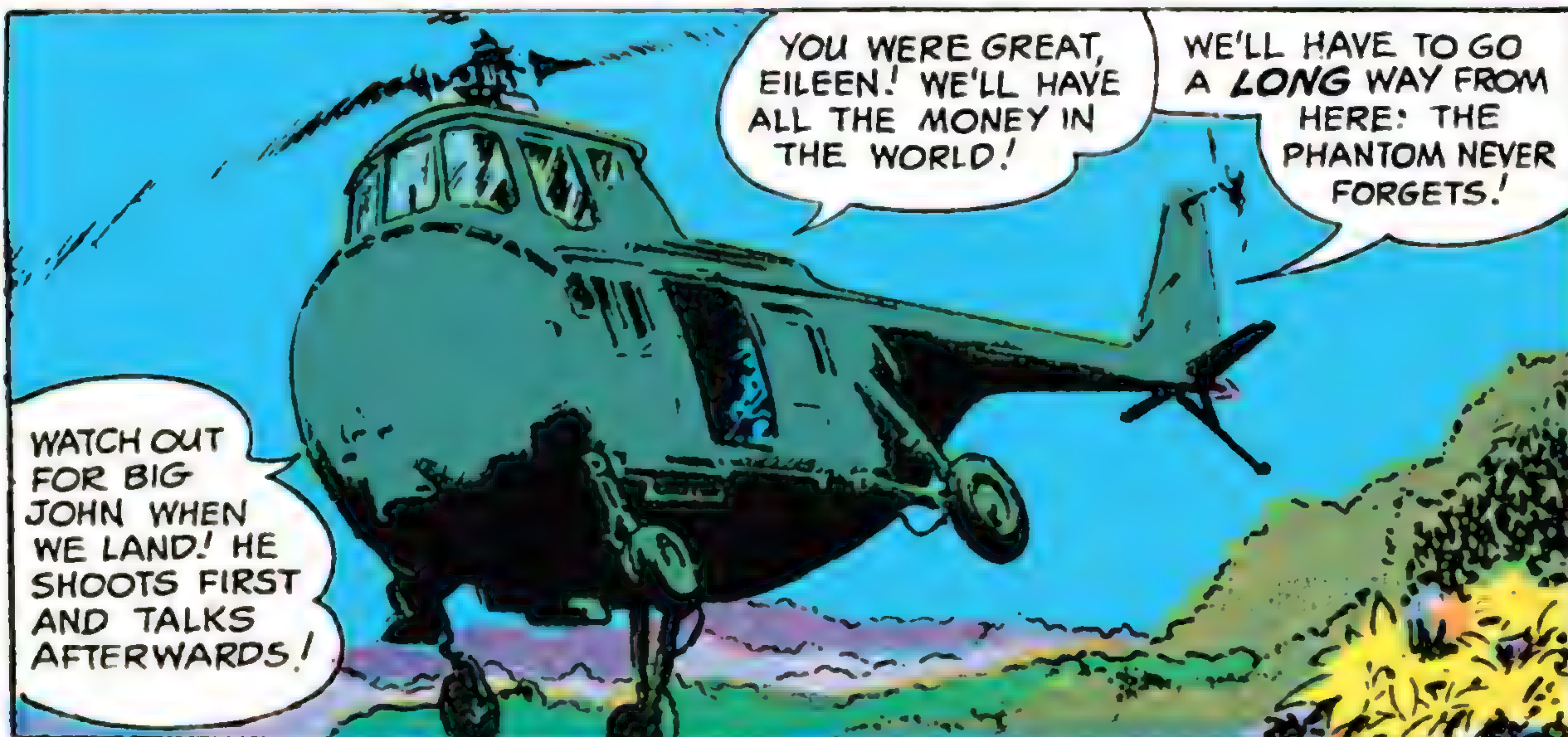


IT'S WITHIN RANGE, SERGEANT. I CAN HIT THE ROTOR, BUT THAT'S GOING TO MAKE FOR A ROUGH LANDING!

HOLD IT! THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE GOING FAR...



THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY... THEY'RE COMING DOWN... THEY'RE GOING TO LAND IN THE CLEARING!



WATCH OUT FOR BIG JOHN WHEN WE LAND! HE SHOTS FIRST AND TALKS AFTERWARDS!

YOU WERE GREAT, EILEEN! WE'LL HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD!

WE'LL HAVE TO GO A LONG WAY FROM HERE! THE PHANTOM NEVER FORGETS!

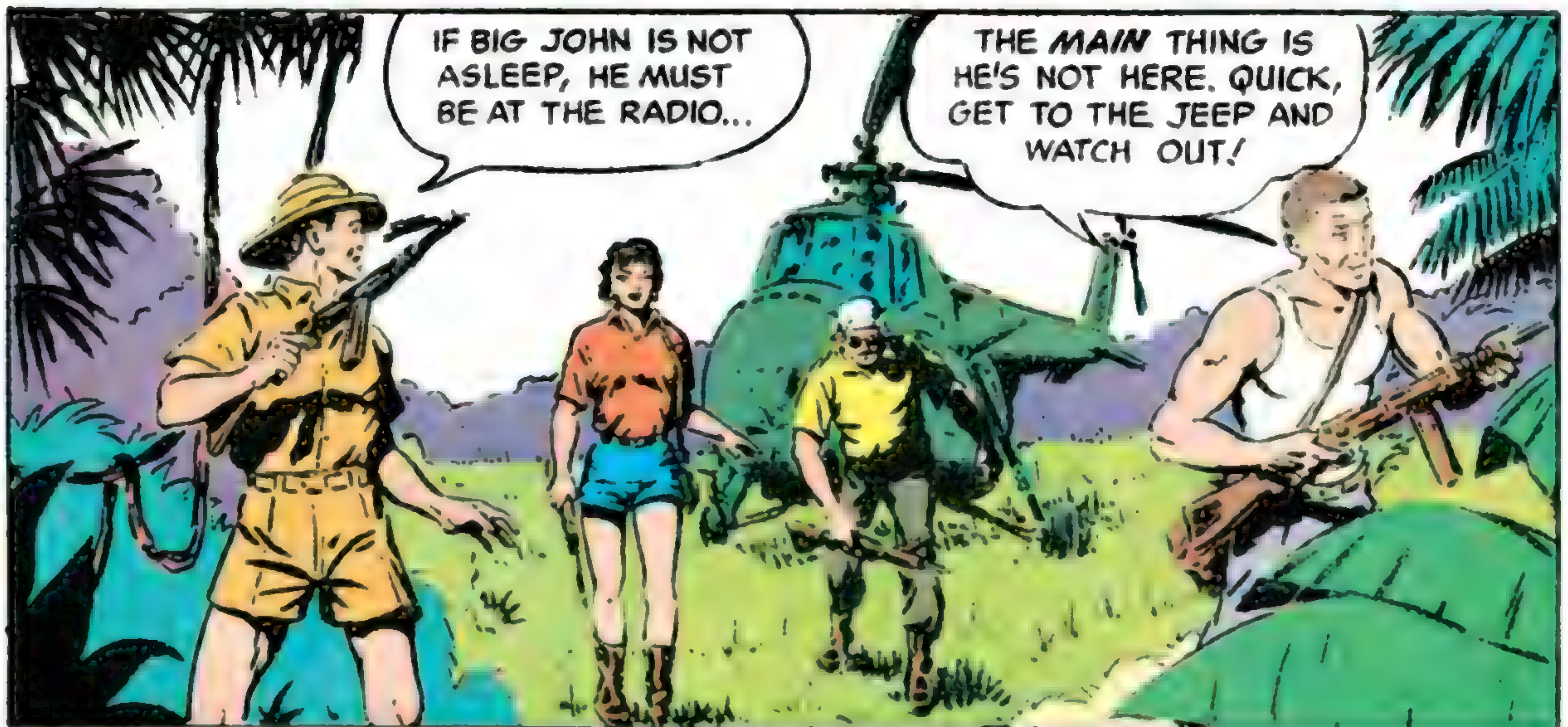


I'LL GET OUT FIRST.
IF THEY'RE HIDING,
THEY'LL SHOW
THEMSELVES.

I'LL KEEP
YOU COVERED.
GO ON!



WELL, WELL! IT'S EILEEN'S
FRIEND... THERE **SHE** IS,
TOO. LET'S WAIT UNTIL THEY
ALL GET OUT...



IF BIG JOHN IS NOT
ASLEEP, HE MUST
BE AT THE RADIO...

THE MAIN THING IS
HE'S NOT HERE. QUICK,
GET TO THE JEEP AND
WATCH OUT!

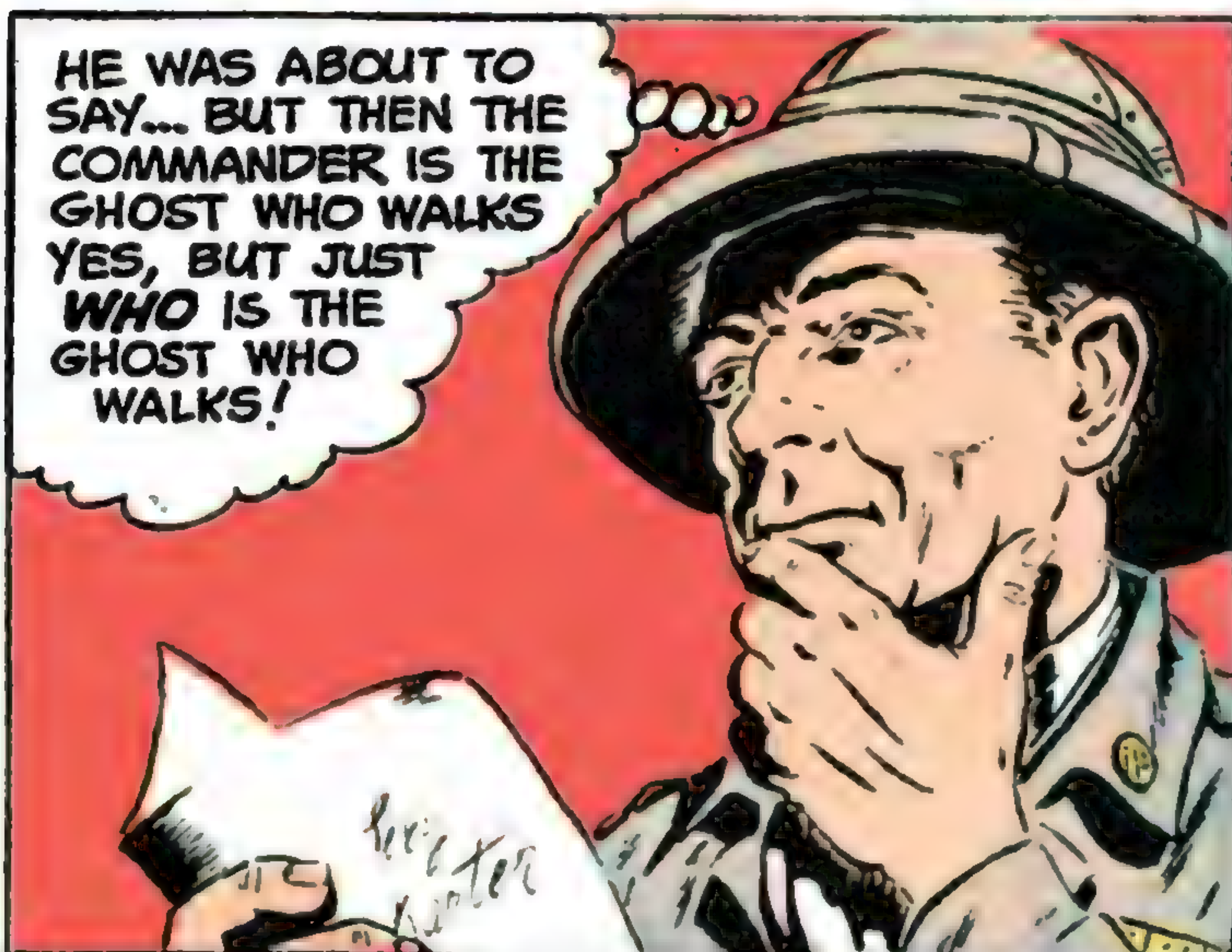


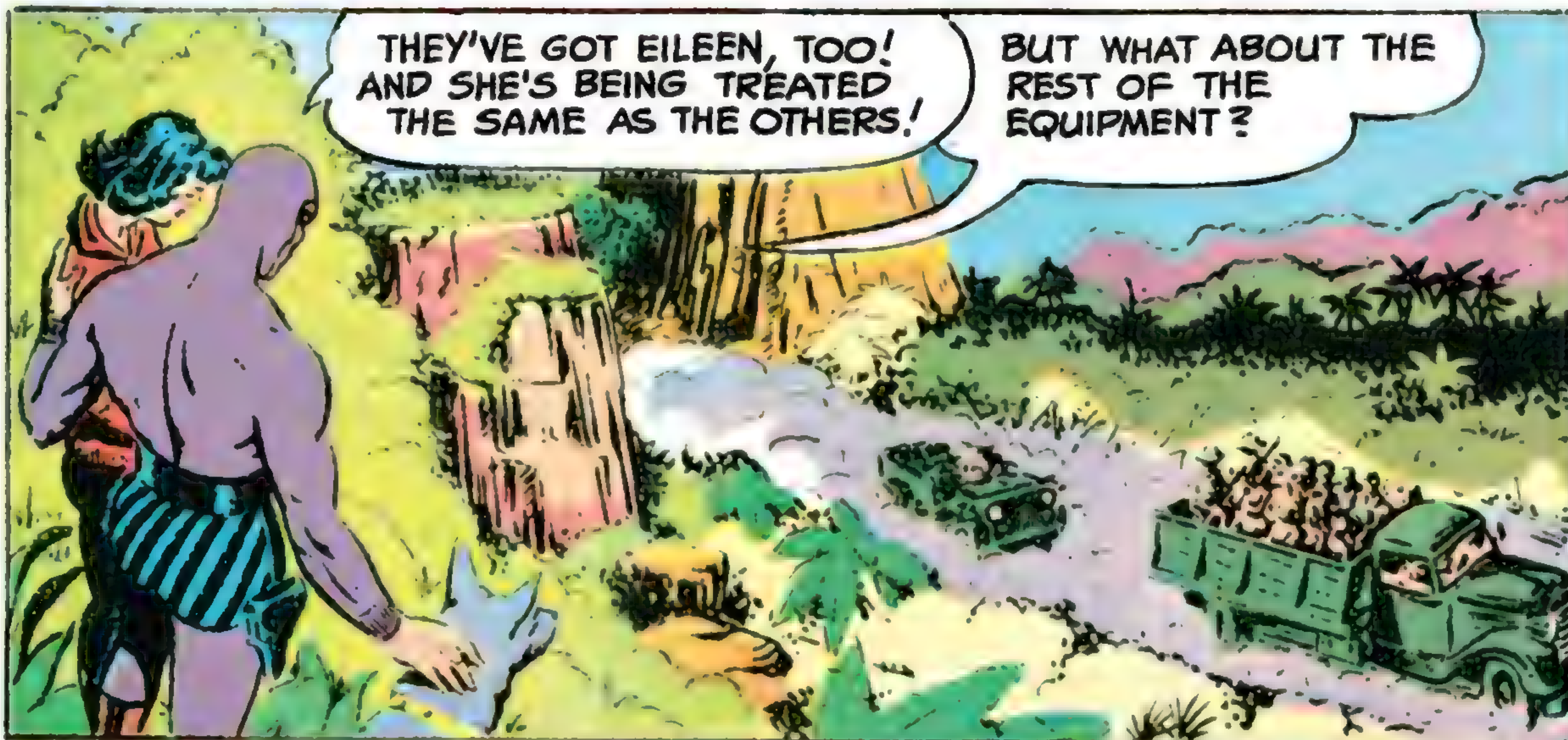
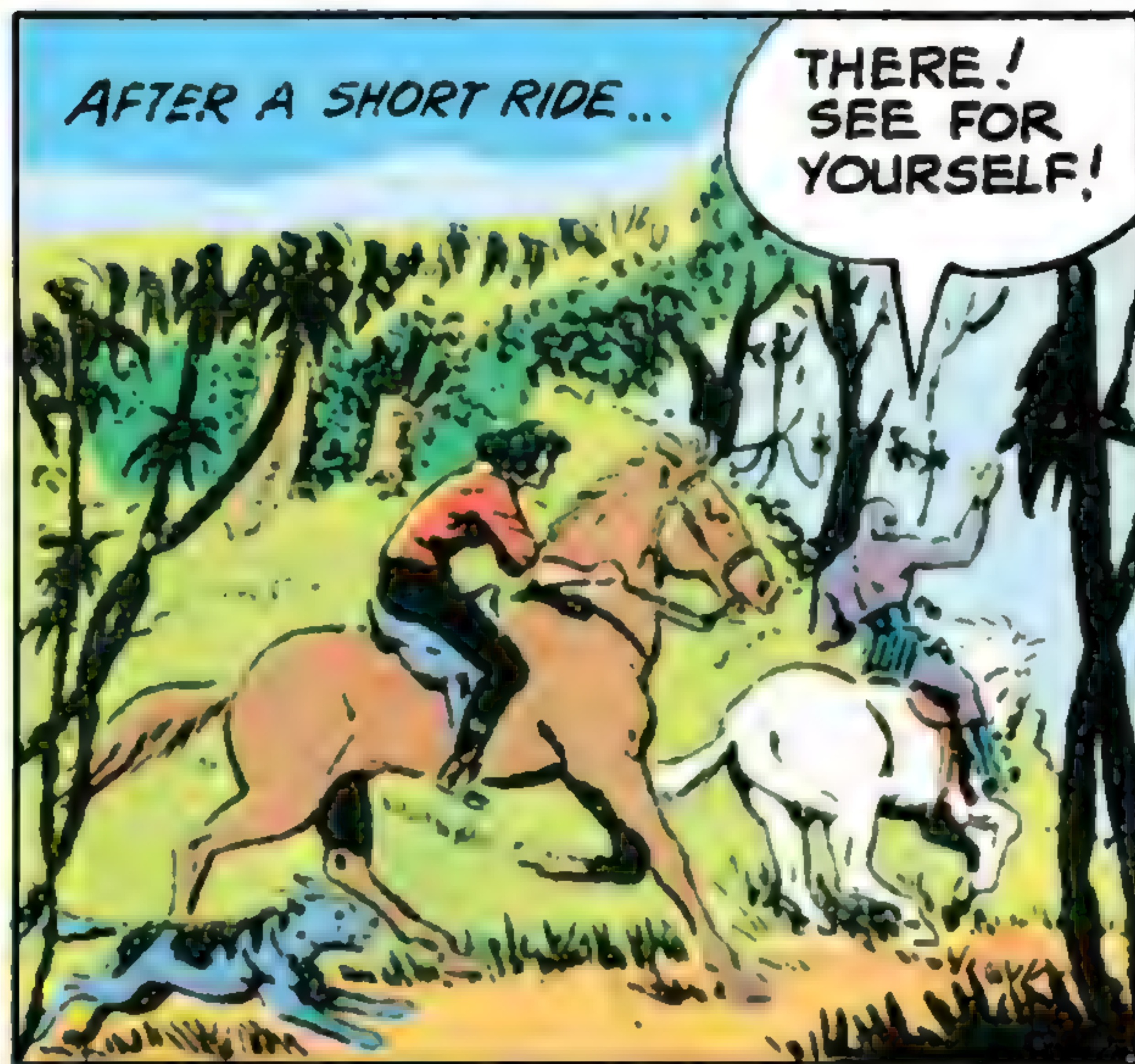
STOP! JUNGLE
PATROL!
HANDS UP!



THE PATROL, EH!
NOW YOU'LL...
WHAT'S WRONG?!







DON'T MISS THE NEXT PHANTOM ADVENTURE! ON SALE **NEXT MONTH!**



Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM

BOOM-BOOM BOOM

PHANTOM CALLS...

WATCH FOR TROUBLE...

TWO MEN

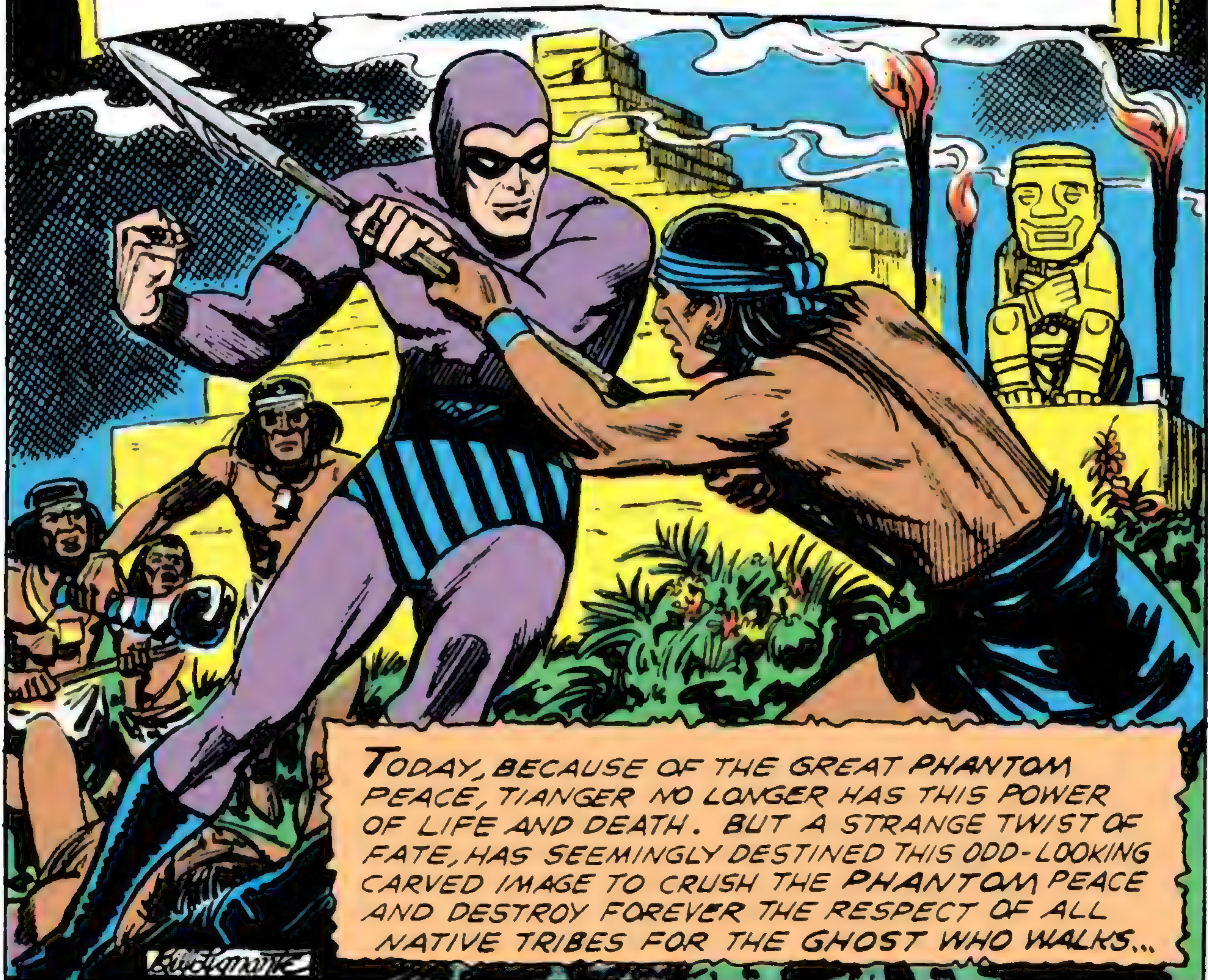
BOOM



The PHANTOM

THE LOST CITY OF YIANGO

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WITH THE COMING OF THE FIRST PHANTOM, MOST OLD TRIBAL BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITIONS VANISHED FOREVER FROM THE BENGALI JUNGLE. BUT MANY TRIBES KEPT CERTAIN OLD TRADITIONS ALIVE. SOME HAVE SURVIVED TO THIS DAY. ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL IS THE ANCIENT VALUGA GOD TIANGER, A FIGURE WHICH, AT ONE TIME, HELD THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER THESE WARLIKE PEOPLE.



TODAY, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT PHANTOM PEACE, TIANGER NO LONGER HAS THIS POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH. BUT A STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, HAS SEEMINGLY DESTINED THIS ODD-LOOKING CARVED IMAGE TO CRUSH THE PHANTOM PEACE AND DESTROY FOREVER THE RESPECT OF ALL NATIVE TRIBES FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS...

ONCE EVERY FIFTY YEARS A SOLEMN PROCESSION OF THE VALUGA LEADERS THREADS THROUGH THE JUNGLE AND INTO THE DEEP FORBIDDEN WOODS...

LET THEM PASS. THE PHANTOM HAS WILLED IT! ...FOR THIS IS THE DAY OF GREAT CEREMONY. IT BEGINS THE DAY OF TIANGER!



... THEIR PATH LEADS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE SKULL CAVE.

IT IS TIME, O PHANTOM! FIFTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR PEOPLE STOOD ON THIS SPOT!

I REMEMBER WELL, WOMBASSO! COME WITH ME!



THE VALUGA ARE GREATLY IN YOUR DEBT, O GHOST WHO WALKS! FOR GUARDING THE SACRED IDOL THESE FIFTY YEARS!



IT HAS BEEN HERE WITH MY OWN TREASURES, WOMBASSO!

OUR GREAT CEREMONY BEGINS TONIGHT. WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH.

I'LL BE THERE, WOMBASSO!



*THAT EVENING, AT THE
VALUGA VILLAGE...*

PHANTOM
COMES! LET
THE CEREMONY
BEGIN!

A PROUD
MOMENT!
EACH FIFTY
YEARS, THEIR
STRENGTH IS
REVITALIZED BY
THIS CEREMONY!



TIANGER!... FIRST LEADER
OF THE VALUGA! A MAN OF
COURAGE AND STRENGTH,
WHOSE SPIRIT IS THE LIFE
BLOOD OF HIS TRIBE!



*SUDDENLY, THE CEREMONY
HALTS ABRUPTLY...*

YIIIEEE!

JORAN! WHAT
GRIEVES YOU?

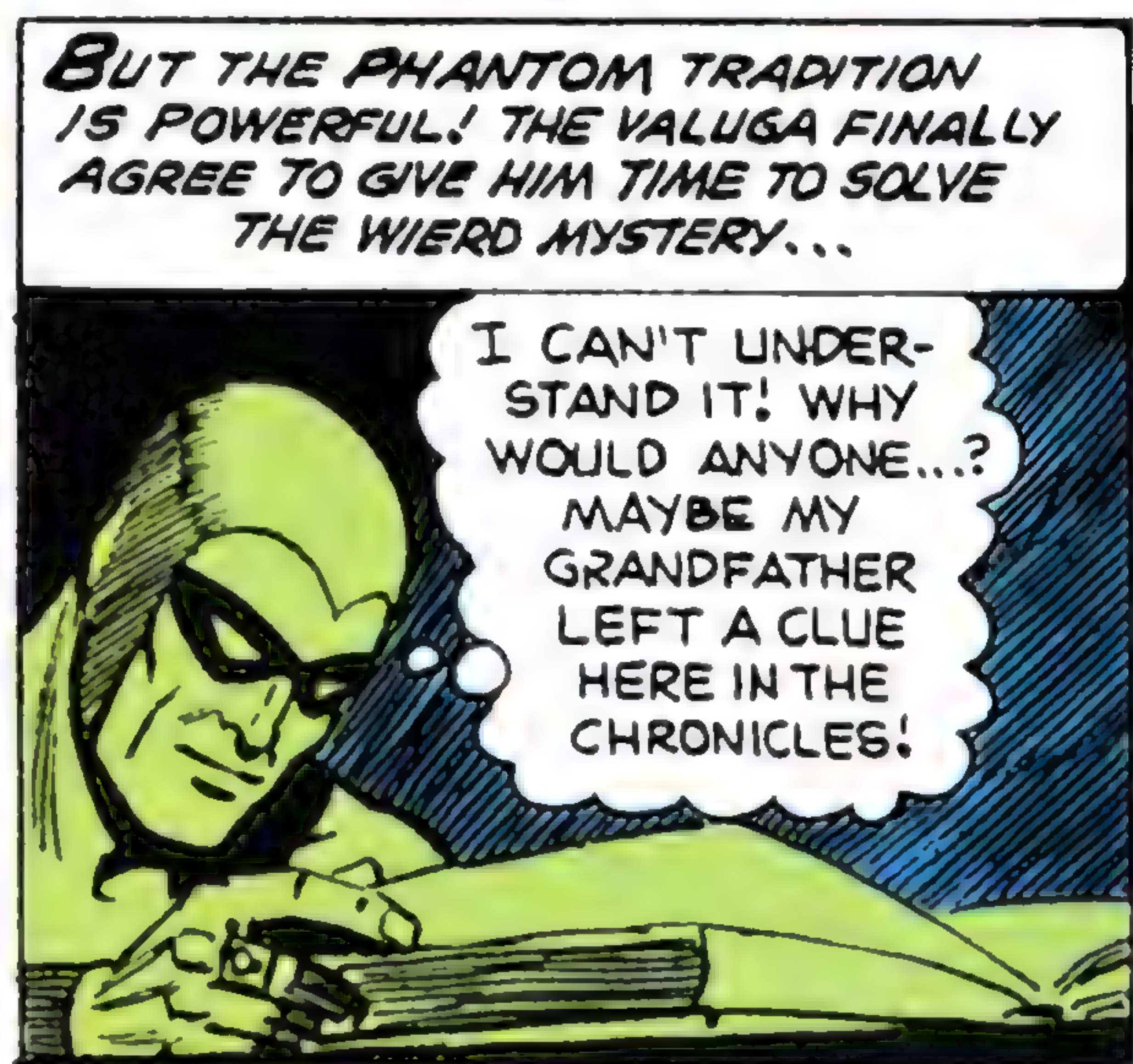


THIS IS NOT THE TRUE TOKEN
OF TIANGER! THE *REAL* IDOL
CONTAINED A SECRET SCROLL.
THERE IS NONE HERE!

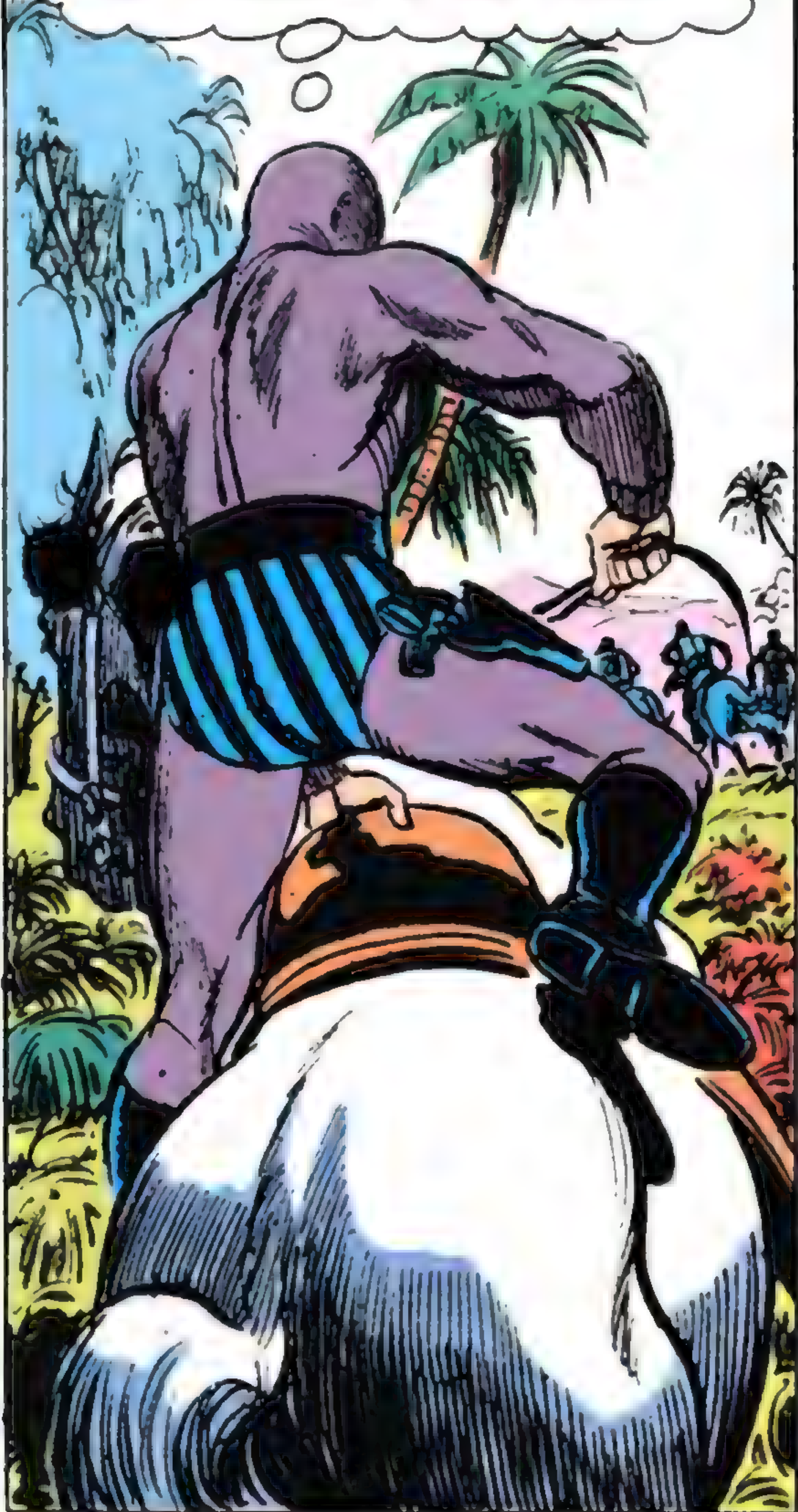


THE *PHANTOM*
HAS GIVEN US
A *FALSE*
SYMBOL!





RENEGADES! LURKING BY THE HUT WHERE THE IDOL IS KEPT!



"I MANAGED TO STOP TWO OF THEM..."

THESE TWO ARE FROM THE *YIANGO* TRIBE...THE CUT-THROATS WHO STILL, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, DON'T KNOW THE *PHANTOM PEACE*!



"I HAD THEM WELL UNDER CONTROL..."



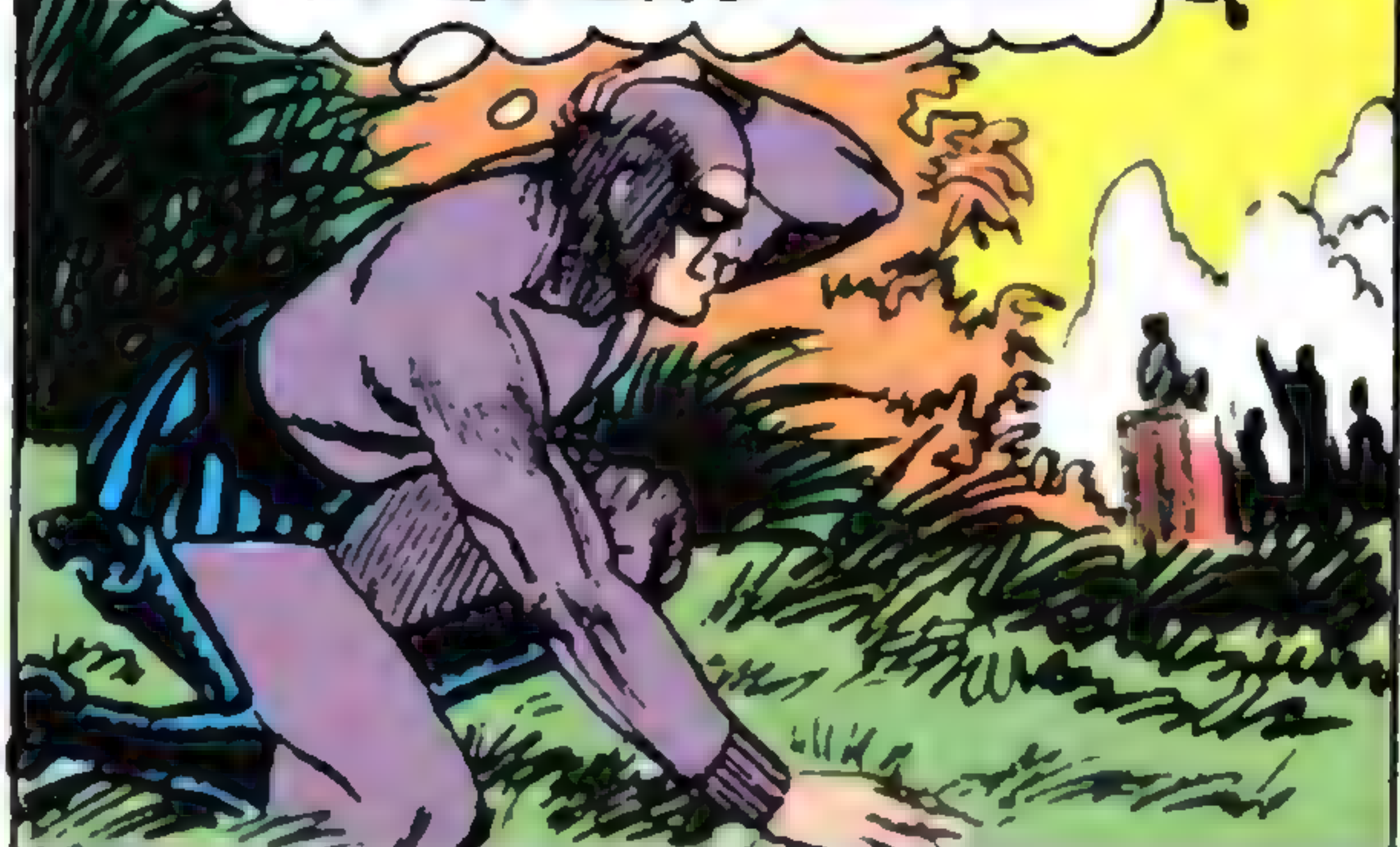
"WHEN SUDDENLY, ONE OF THEIR WHEELING HORSES STRUCK ME A TERRIBLE BLOW..."

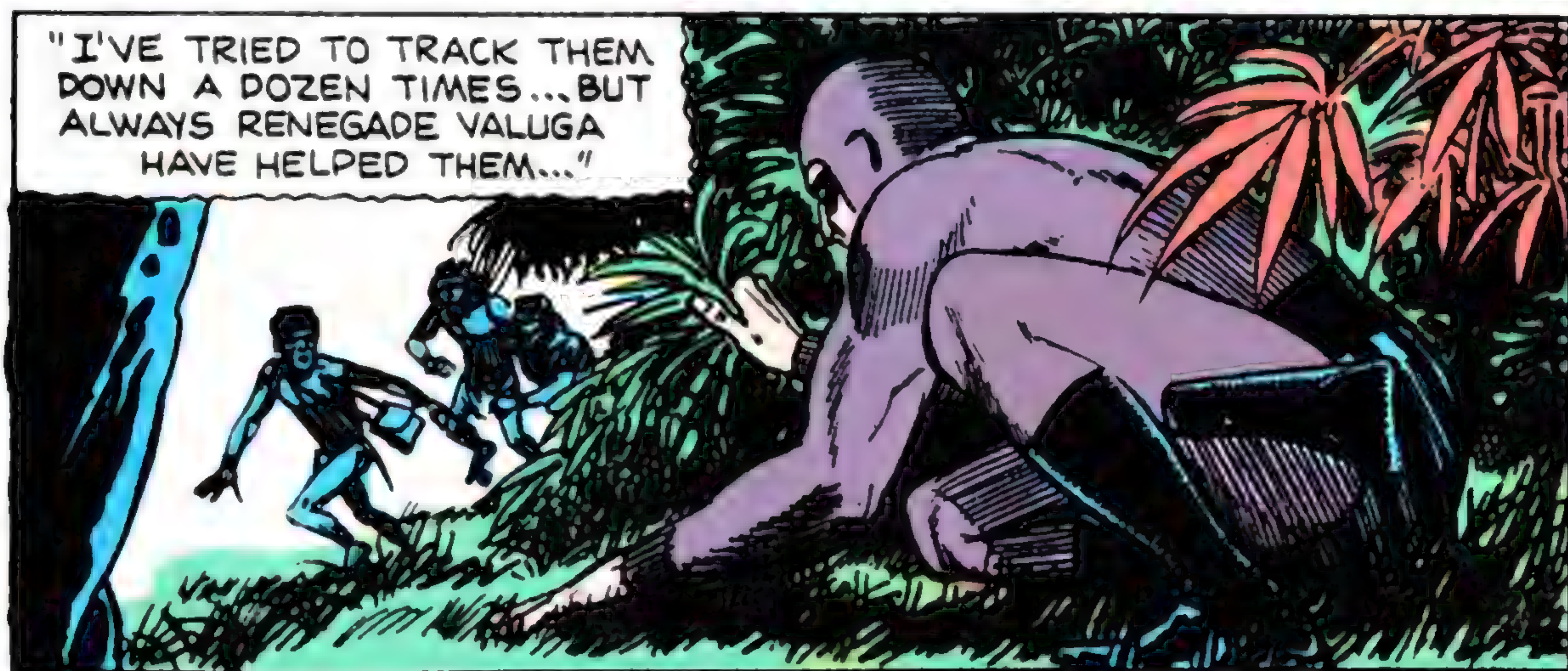
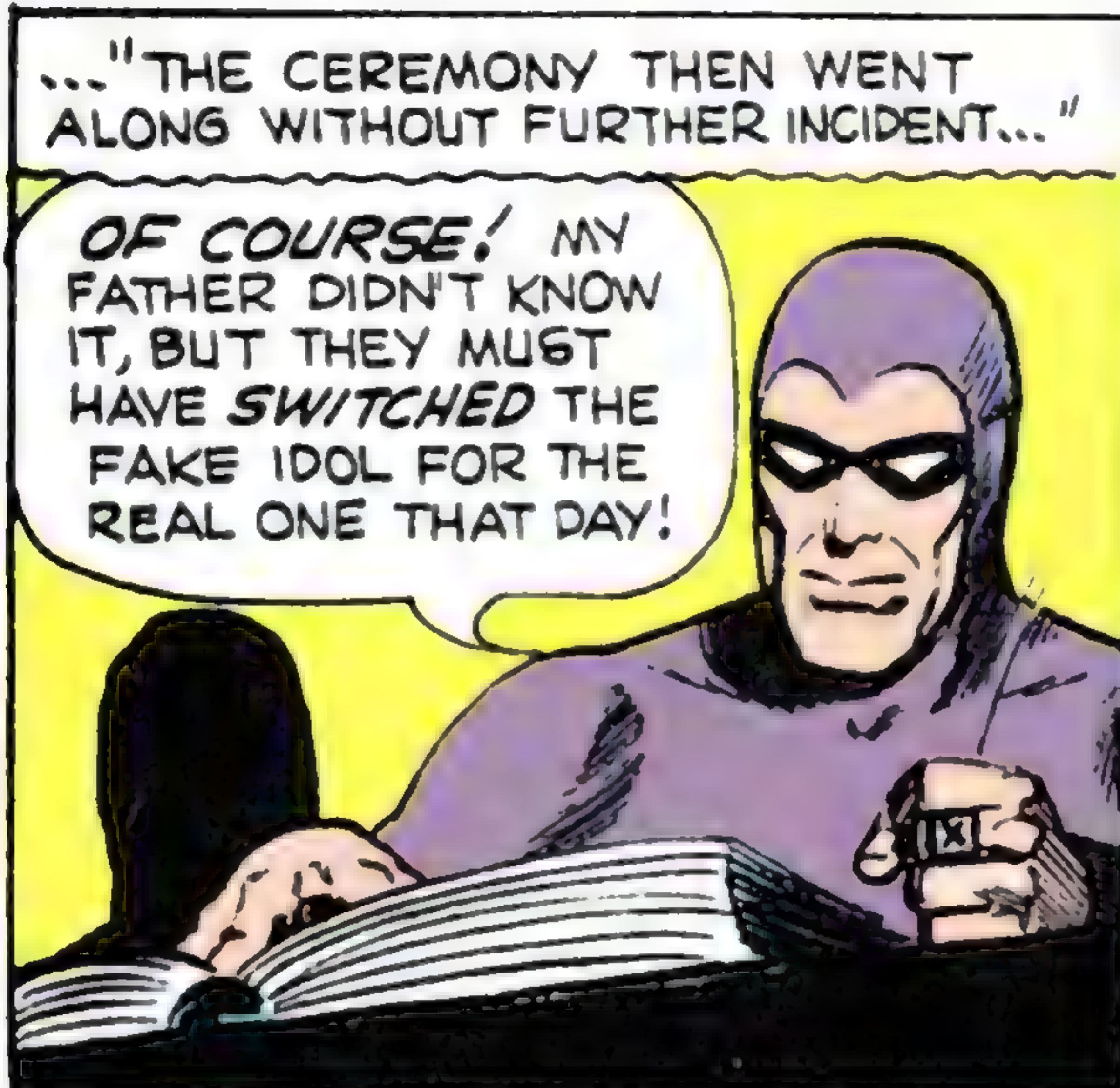
OOF!



"AND WHEN I REGAINED MY SENSES..."

(WH-WHEW!)...THEY'RE GONE... BUT I GUESS NO HARM WAS DONE!...THE IDOL IS STILL IN THE *ELDER'S* HANDS!

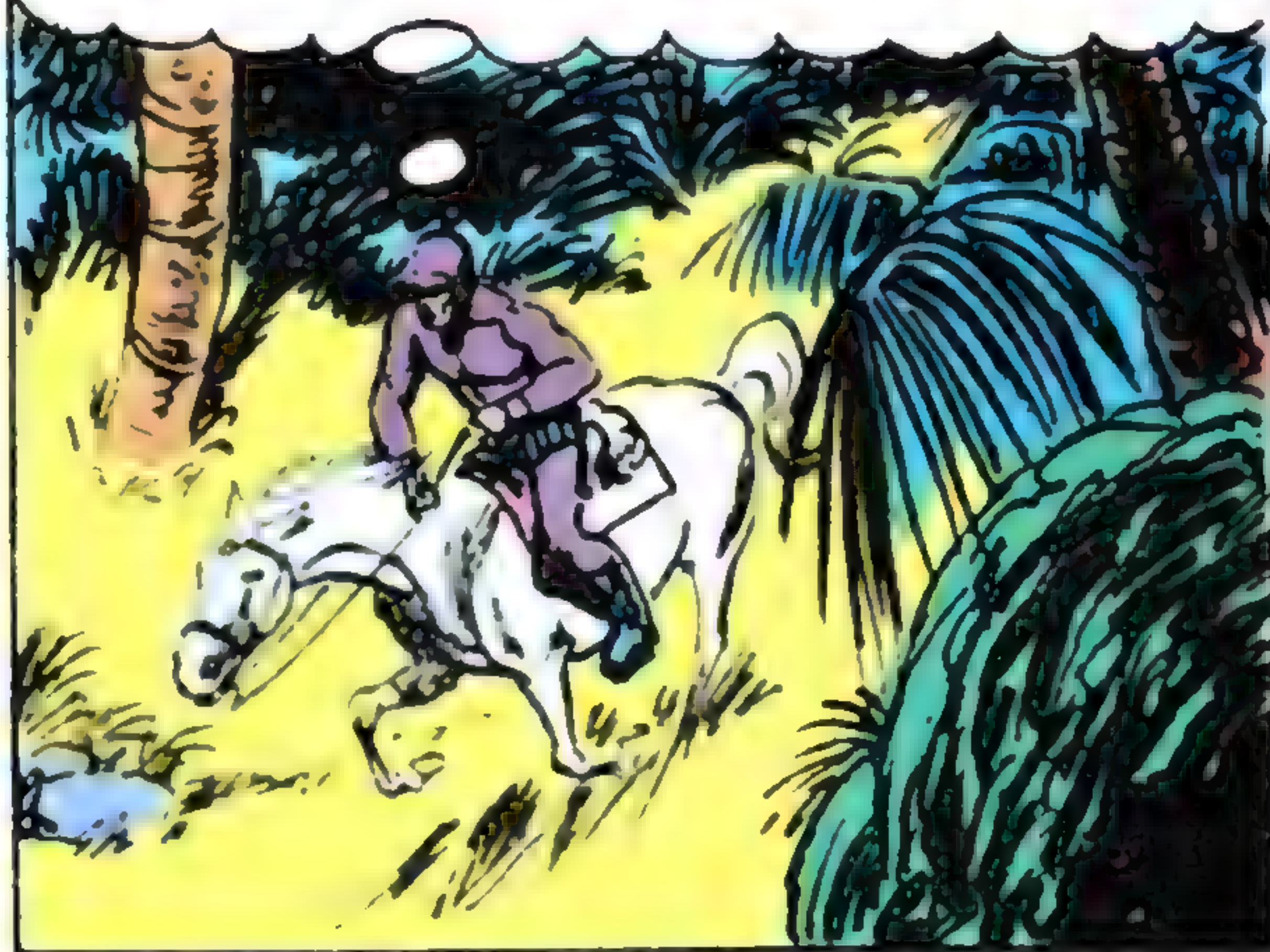




THE STOLEN IDOL MUST BE THE SECRET OF THEIR POWER OVER THE VALUGA! THEY'VE USED IT TO TURN THEM INTO *RENEGADES*!



THERE'S ONLY *ONE* SOLUTION ... HEAD INTO THE MOUNTAINS! WHEN I FIND THE LOST CITY OF YIANGO, I THINK I'LL ALSO FIND *TIANGER*!



AS THE PHANTOM SETS OUT ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION, ONCE-FRIENDLY EYES WATCH WITH SUSPICION...



TELL YOUR CHIEF I WILL NOT LET HIM DOWN ... I WILL RIGHT *WHATEVER* WRONG HAS BEEN DONE YOU!

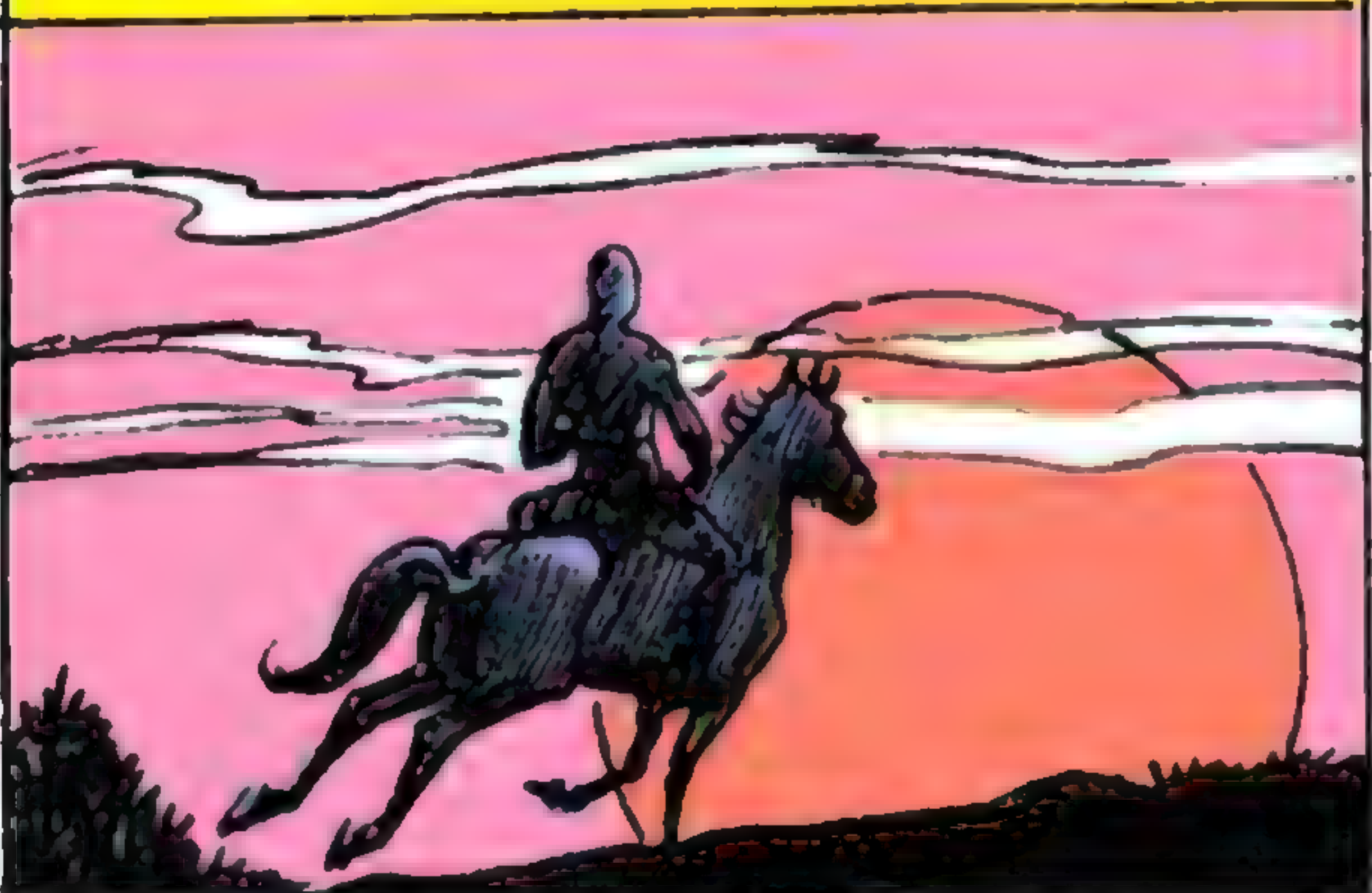
DO NOT LISTEN! THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS NO LONGER OUR FRIEND!

THEY'VE LOST FAITH IN ME ... IF I DON'T FIND THAT IDOL IT COULD MEAN THE END OF THE *PHANTOM* PEACE!

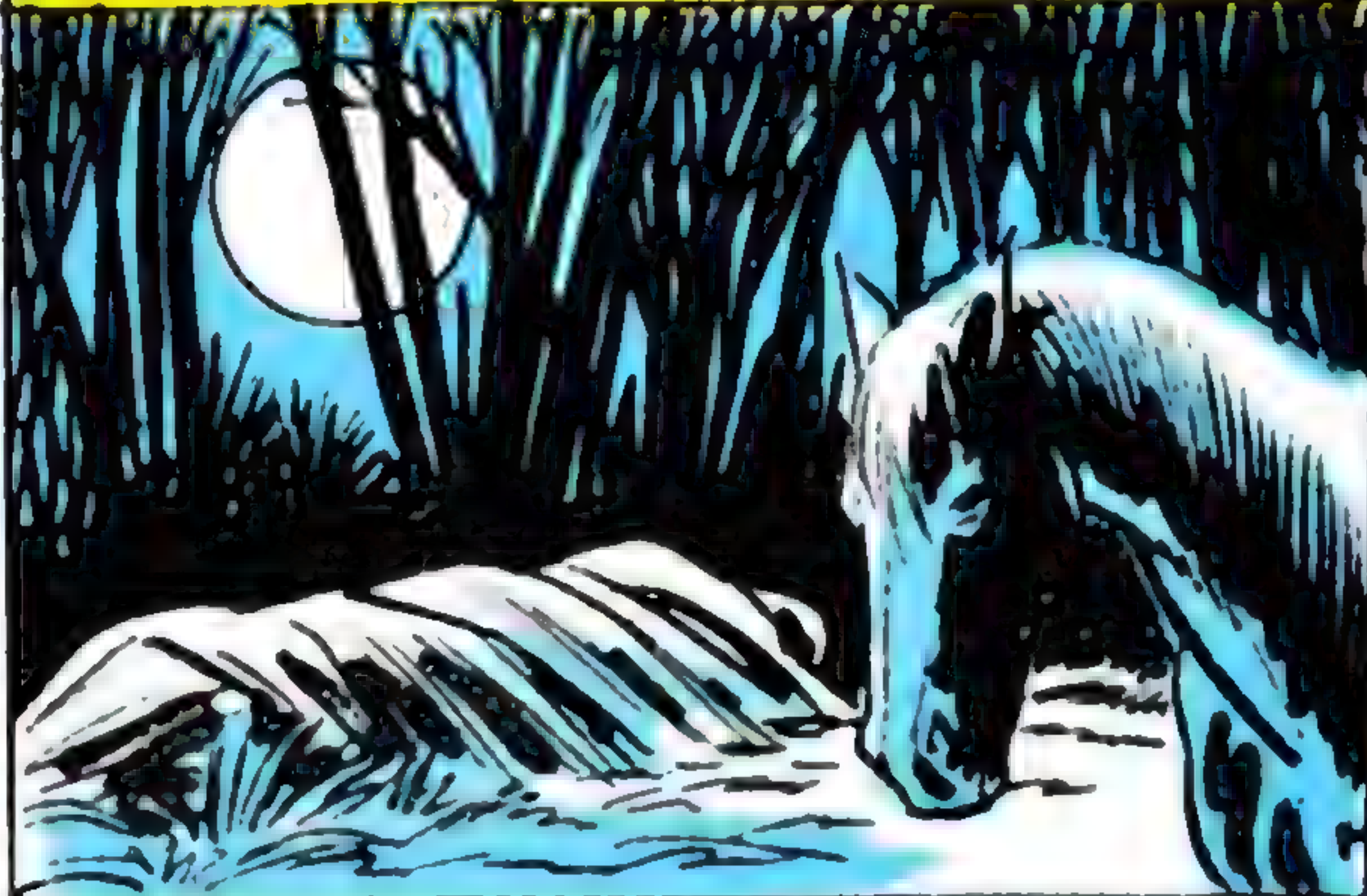
I—I *MUST* SUCCEED!



FOR TWO DAYS, THE PHANTOM RIDES IN SEARCH OF THE SECRET CITY...



FOR TWO NIGHTS, HE IS FREED TO MAKE CAMP IN STRANGE, HOSTILE COUNTRY...



THEN, ON THE THIRD NIGHT...

THE GHOST WHO WALKS...
IF WE COULD CAPTURE HIM
ALIVE THE YIANGO WOULD
HONOR US GREATLY!

YES... AND *WHAT* DO WE HAVE TO
FEAR? THE YIANGO HAVE TIANGER—
THE *TRUE* SYMBOL OF OUR TRIBAL
POWER! COME!

YOU STAND GUARD!
I'LL CAPTURE HIM!

STRIKE FAST...
AND *HARD*!



SUDDENLY...

WHAT MANNER
OF MEN HIT A
SLEEPING
MAN?

WHA...?
U-GGGH!

THE VALUGA
ARE A BRAVE
PEOPLE! WHAT
POWER OF EVIL
HAS TURNED
YOU TWO INTO
RENEGADE
JACKELS?



WE *ARE* THE POWERS OF THE VALUGA, PHANTOM! WE ARE DIRECTED BY THE SACRED SYMBOL OF TIANGER! *WE* DO NOT FEAR YOU LIKE THE *OTHERS*!

HONEST MEN HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE PHANTOM! YOU HAVE BEEN TRICKED!

BUT THOSE WHO THREATEN THE WELFARE OF OTHERS HAVE *GOOD* CAUSE TO FEAR MY HAND! NOW...YOU WILL DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY! YOU WILL LEAD ME TO THE *SECRET YIANGSO CITY*!

FOR A FULL DAY, THE RENEGADES LEAD THE PHANTOM WESTWARD, THEN...

TH-THERE... THROUGH THE CANYON... IN THE RUINS BEYOND...

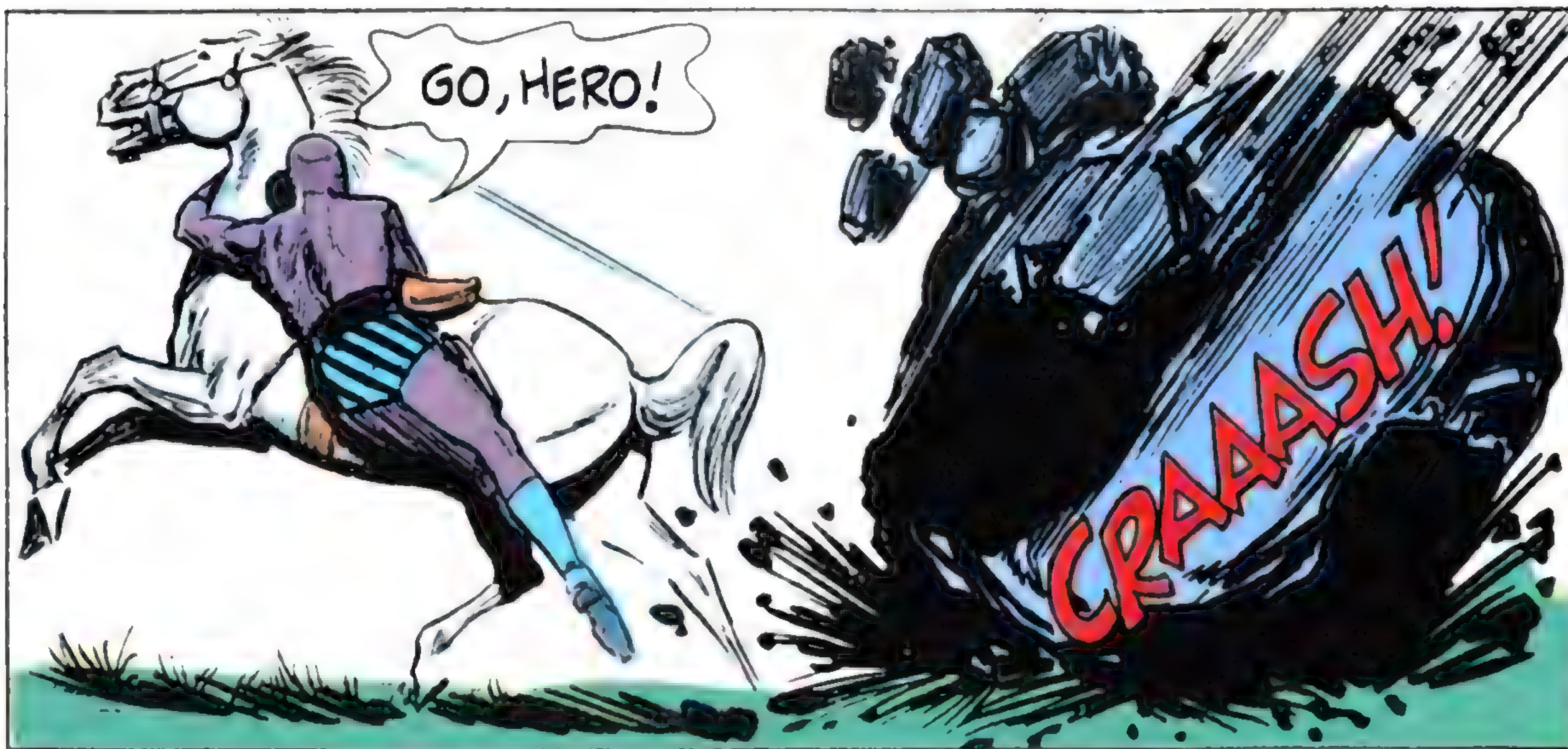
L-LET US GO, PHANTOM... TH-THEY WILL KILL US FOR LEADING YOU HERE! NO MAN CAN STOP THEM!

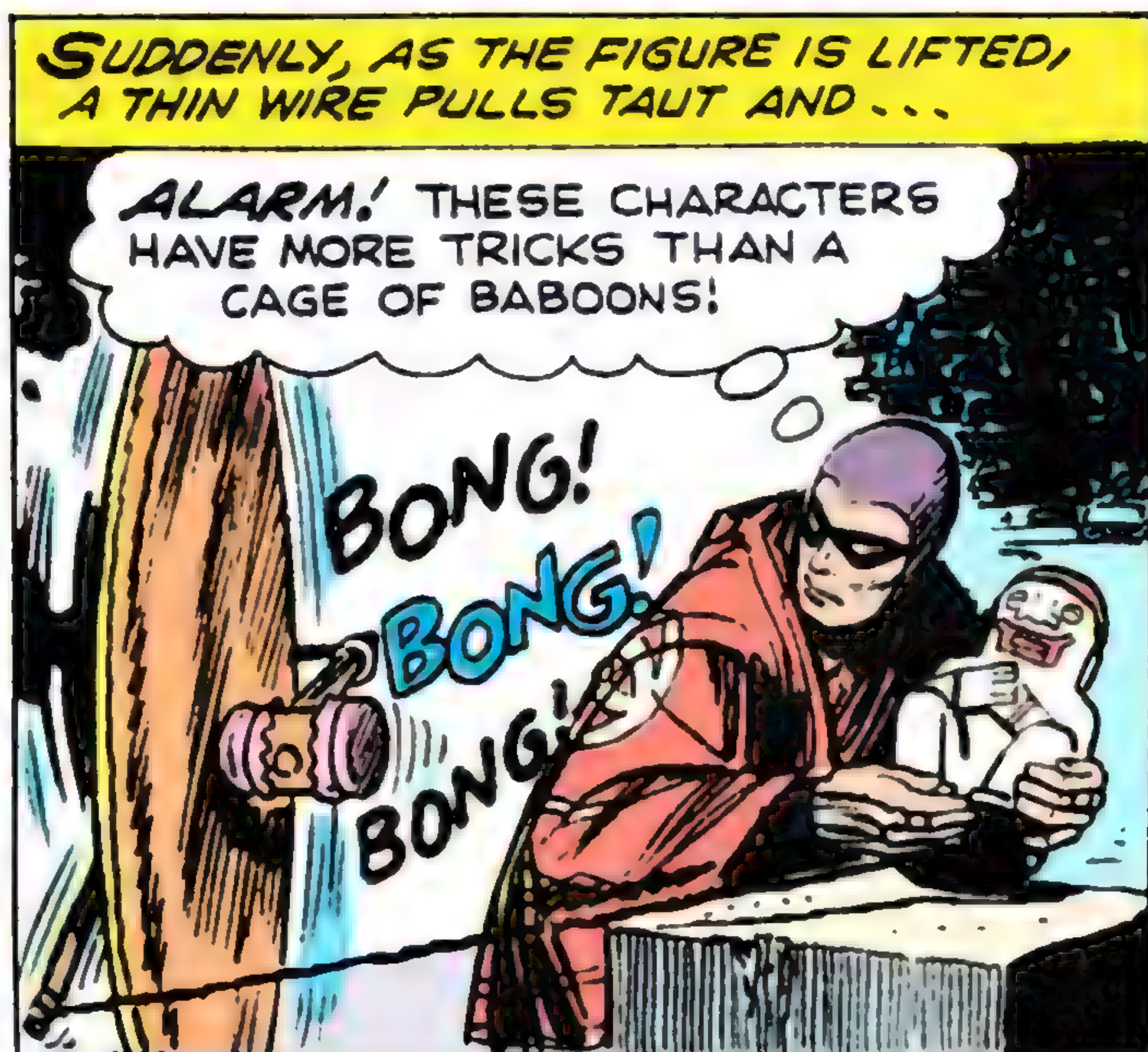
SO THAT'S WHERE THEY HIDE OUT... I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THESE OLD RUINS! HMM... STRANGE... THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY GUARDS...

SUDDENLY, A RUMBLE FROM ABOVE AND...

A TRAP!

RUMBLE!

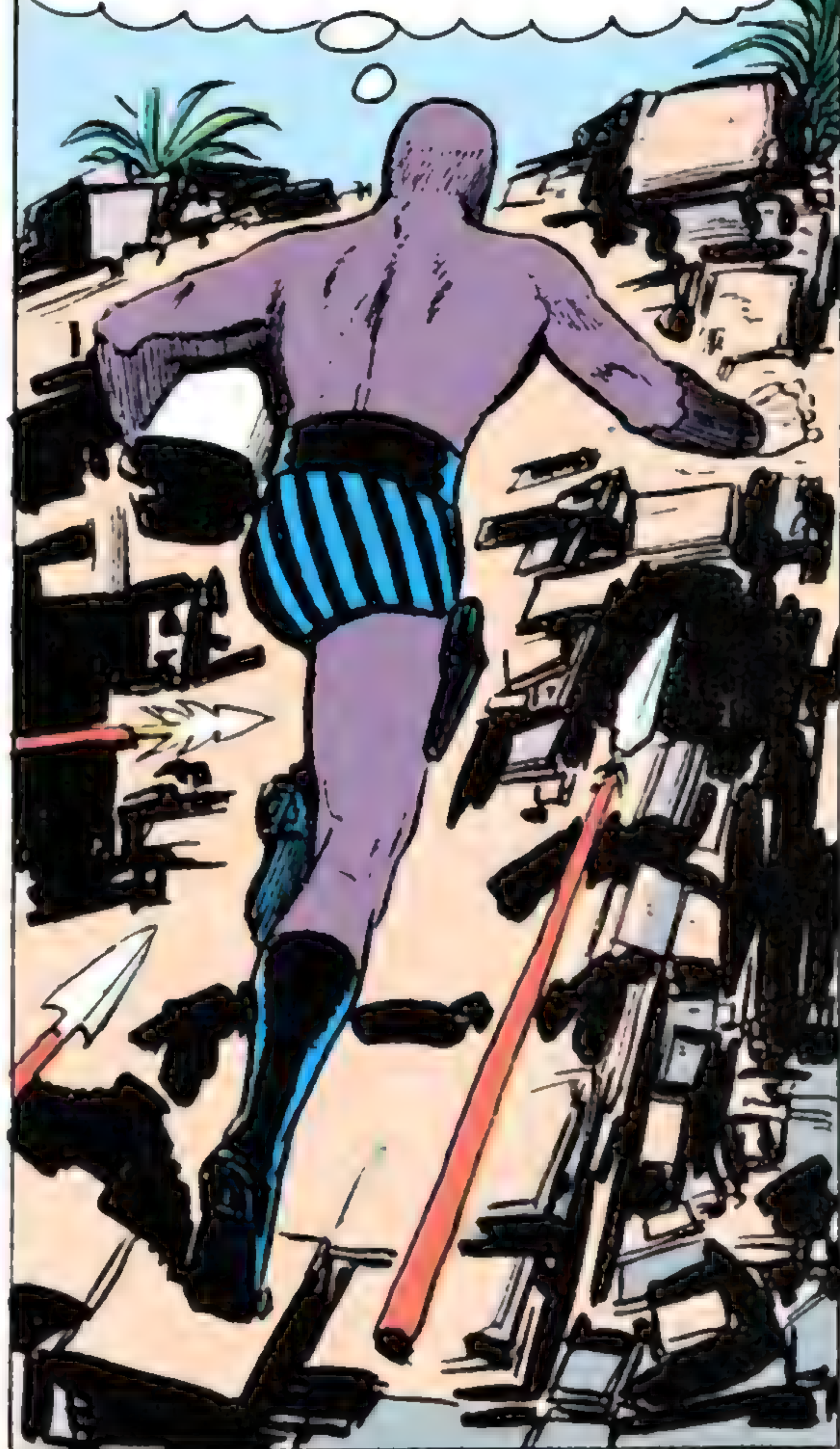




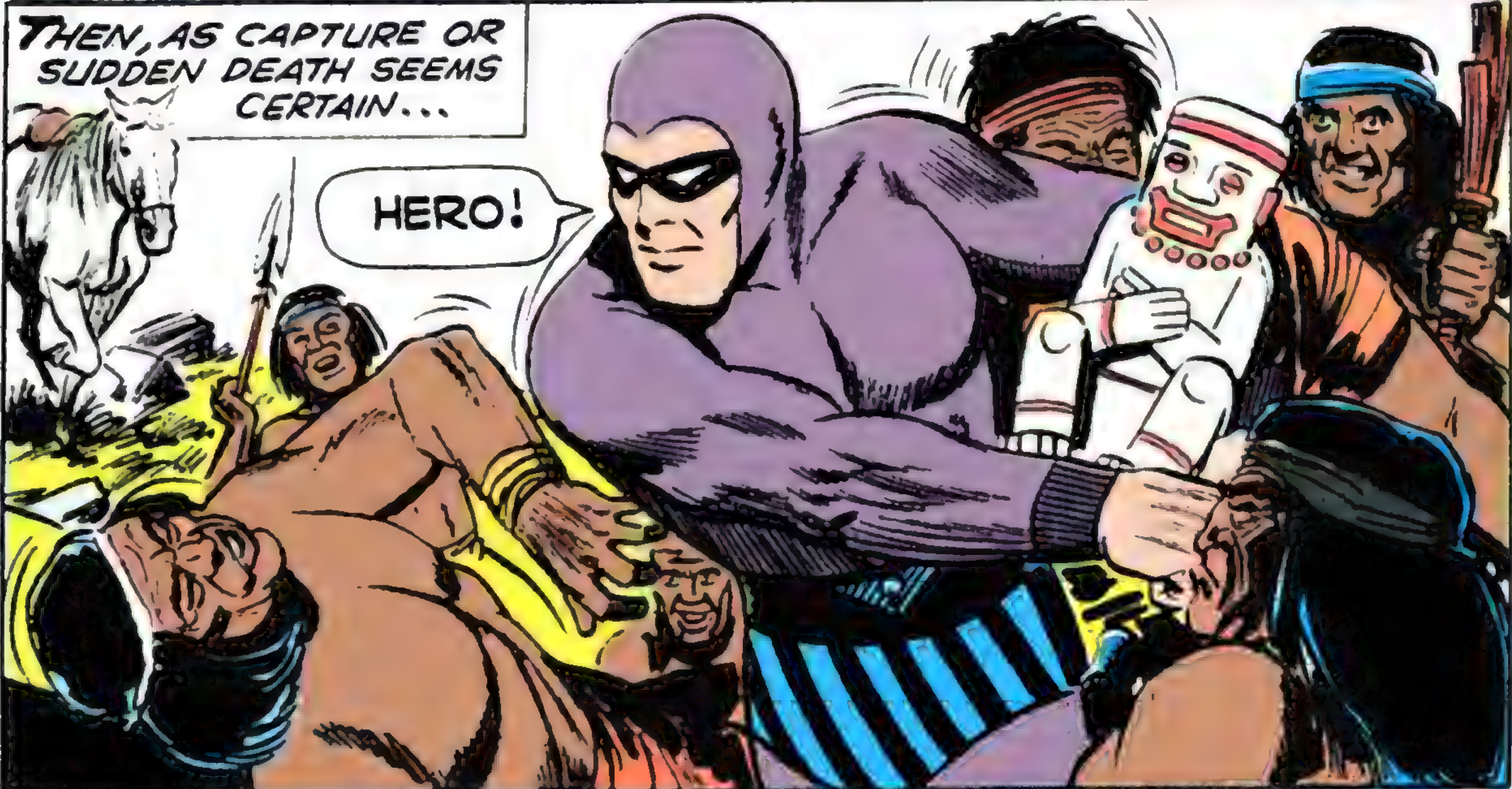
**INSTANTLY, THE YIANGO CAMP
SPRINGS TO LIFE...**

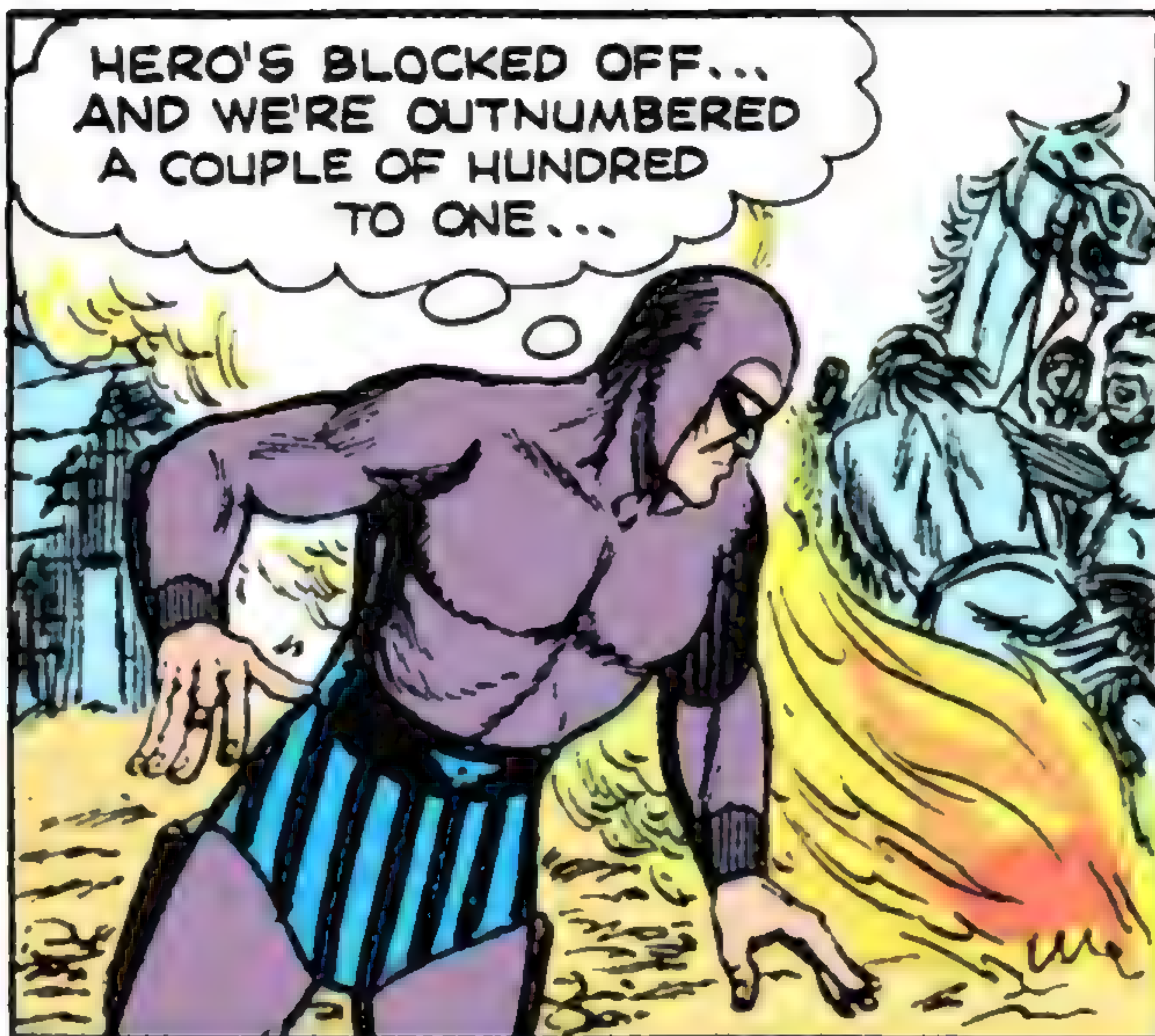


**...IF I TRY CLIMBING THAT
CANYON WALL AGAIN, I'LL
MAKE A PERFECT TARGET...**



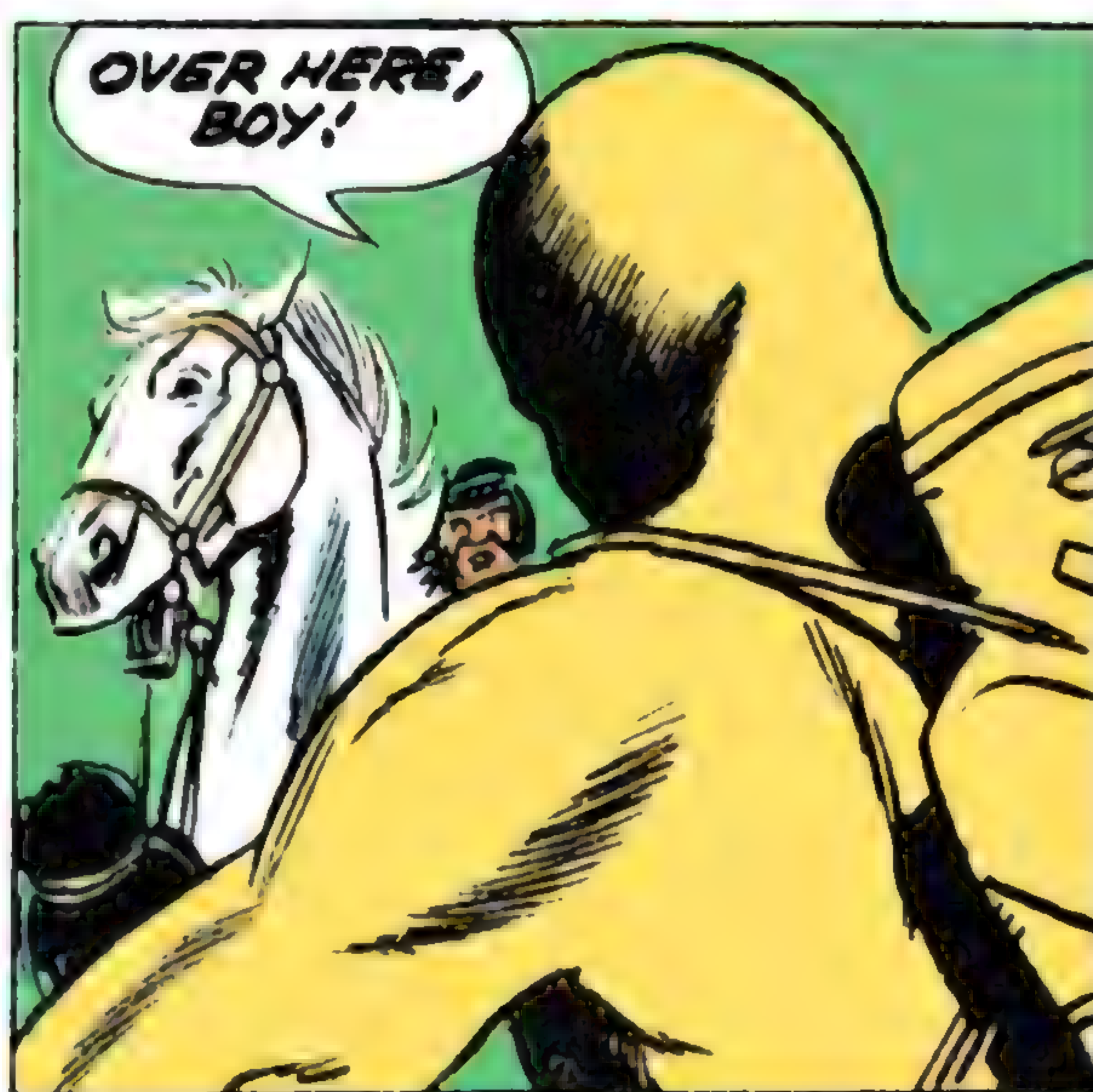
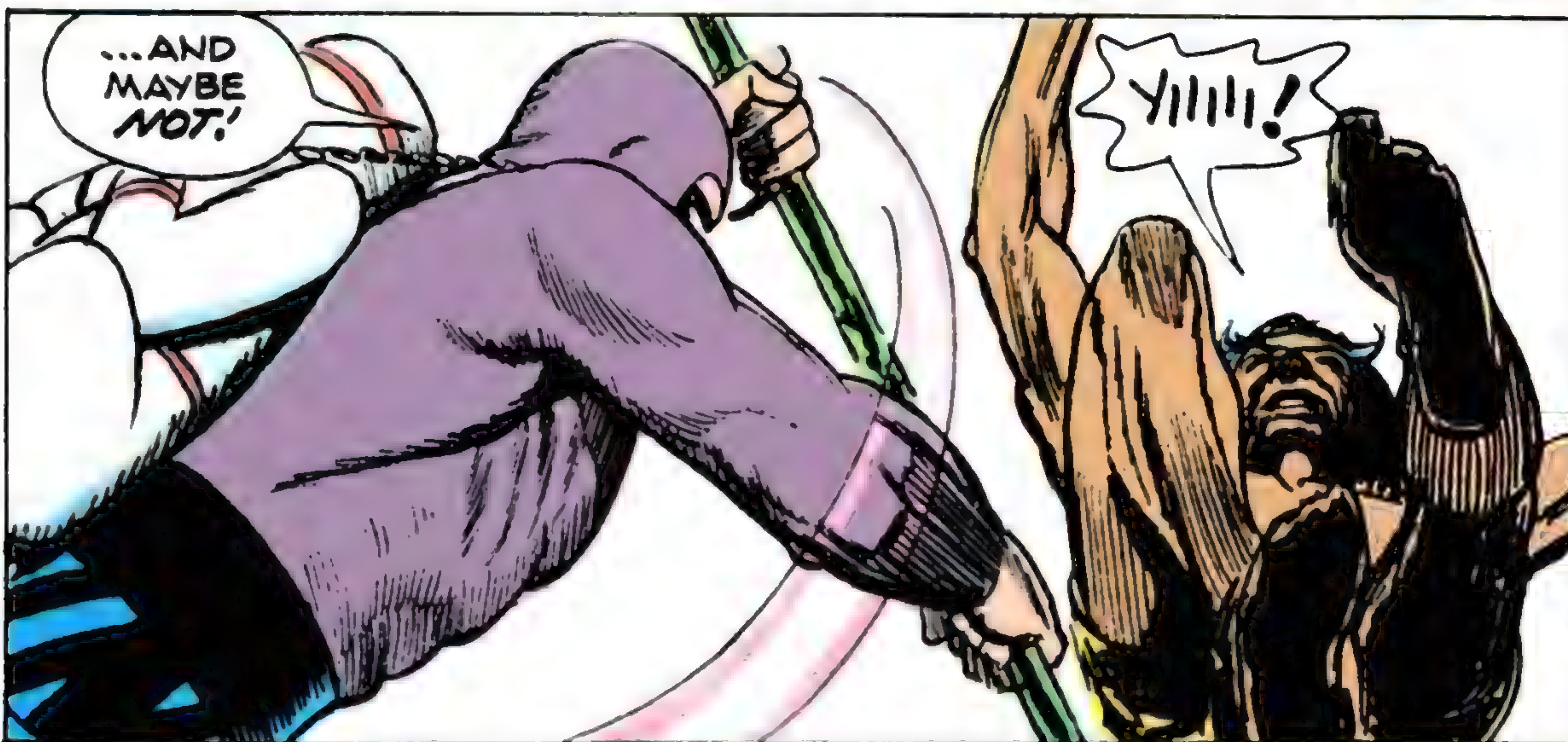
**THEN, AS CAPTURE OR
SUDDEN DEATH SEEMS
CERTAIN...**





WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE SPEED, THE PHANTOM PULLS BURNING EMBERS FROM THE FIRE AND HURLS THEM TOWARD THE TINDER-DRY HUTS...







The
PHANTOM

THE PEARL RAIDERS

MORE POWER! FASTER! IF THAT
GHOST WHO WALKS CHARACTER RETURNS
THE BLACK PEARL TO BENGALI I'LL
HAVE YOUR HEADS!

BRATTA!
BAM!

BRATTA!
BAM!

I HOPE THIS BOAT MAKES IT!
UNLESS WE REACH THE CALCUTTA
REEFS QUICKLY, WE'LL BOTH BE
PAYING A SUDDEN VISIT TO
OUR "HONORABLE ANCESTORS"!

PITWEE!

**IT WAS THE MOST PRICELESS PEARL IN THE WORLD...
AND THE PHANTOM HAD PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE
RETURNING THE GLISTENING WONDER TO ITS RIGHTFUL
OWNERS. TO DO THE JOB HE MUST SOMEHOW OUT-SAIL
THE FURY OF CAIRO RED... AND A FAST-MOVING
POWER BOAT LEAVING SUDDEN DEATH IN ITS WAKE!**

ALONG THE SHORES OF THE BAY OF BENGAL, A STRANGE CRAFT HEAVES-TO NEAR A PEARL FARM...

CHINESE JUNK!
PERHAPS THEY'RE
COMING TO HONOR
US BECAUSE IT IS
PEARL HARVESTING
TIME!



BUT THE VISITORS
HAVE OTHER PLANS...

PEARL
RAIDERS!
RUN! RUN!

BAM!
BAM!



WITHIN MINUTES, A FORTUNE IN
FRESHLY-HARVESTED PEARLS ARE
PILED ON THE JUNK'S DECK...

ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL RAID,
CAIRO! THE RAID
WENT OFF WITH-
OUT A HITCH!

GOOD!
RENDEZVOUS
AT THE USUAL
PLACE!



WHILE AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT
IN BENGALI, JUNGLE DRUMS THROB
A FRANTIC MESSAGE ... OVER THE
HILLS... THE VALLEYS...

MIGHTY... GHOST WHO WALKS...
UANGAR SEEK YOU...



... AND INTO THE DEEP WOODS...

...WE NEED HELP
OF PHANTOM...
COME AT ONCE...

STRANGE...
THE UANGAR
RARELY CALL
UPON ME!
WONDER
WHAT'S
HAPPENED?



SOON AFTER, THE
COLORFUL VILLAGE
OF UANGAR...

GREETINGS,
CHIEF GAR! YOU
HAVEN'T NEEDED
MY HELP IN
MANY YEARS!
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED?

PLEASE... DO NOT BE ALARMED,
OH GHOST WHO WALKS! WE ARE *NOT*
IN DANGER... YET! BUT WE DO DESPERATELY
NEED THE STRENGTH OF YOUR BODY AND
THE WISDOM OF YOUR MIND! COME!

THE PRECIOUS BLACK PEARL
OF BENGALI! BUT... WHY HAVE
YOU TAKEN IT FROM ITS
SECRET HIDING PLACE?

BECAUSE WE
KNOW WE MUST
SHARE ITS
BEAUTY WITH
ALL THE
WORLD, OH
PHANTOM!

NEXT WEEK... IN CALCUTTA, A
GREAT INTERNATIONAL PEARL
EXHIBITION IS TO BE HELD! THE
AUTHORITIES HAVE PLEADED
THAT WE ALLOW THEM TO
EXHIBIT THIS, THE FINEST
OF ALL PEARLS...

...BUT WE
FEAR THE
PEARL
RAIDERS!

I SEE... AND YOU WANT *ME* TO
TRAVEL WITH THE PEARL AND KEEP
AN EYE ON IT!

WILL...
YOU AID US?

IT WILL BE AN *HONOR*,
CHIEF GAR! I WILL GUARD
YOUR GREAT BLACK PEARL
LIKE MY OWN HEART!

THANK YOU! OH
THANK YOU, PHANTOM!

**THE FOLLOWING WEEK, IN INDIA,
THE PHANTOM WATCHES AS THE
BLACK PEARL IS PUT IN A PLACE
OF HONOR...**

WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED
TO THE UANGAR FOR THEIR
TRUST, PHANTOM! PLEASE
THANK THEM FOR US!

I WILL BE
GLAD TO, SIR
MOLTEN!

THE EXHIBIT HALL IS WELL-
GUARDED... NO WINDOWS...
PLENTY OF GUARDS! I GUESS
THE PEARL RAIDERS WOULDN'T
DARE TACKLE THIS SET-UP!

**BUT THE PHANTOM IS WRONG... FOR
AT THIS VERY MOMENT IN THE EXHIBIT
HALL'S BASEMENT...**

ALL IS READY, CAIRO! I AM ABOUT TO
SHORT-CIRCUIT THE LIGHTS NOW! MY
MEN ARE HEADING FOR THEIR STATIONS!

**EXCELLENT!
GET ON
WITH IT!**

SOON AFTER, UP ABOVE...

THE LIGHTS!
WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO OUR
LIGHTS?!

COULD BE JUST
AN ELECTRICAL
SHORT-CIRCUIT...OR
SOMETHING MAY
BE UP... BETTER
GET **CLOSE** TO
THOSE PEARLS!

**SUDDENLY, DARK FORMS SLAM
INTO THE PHANTOM...**

OOOF!

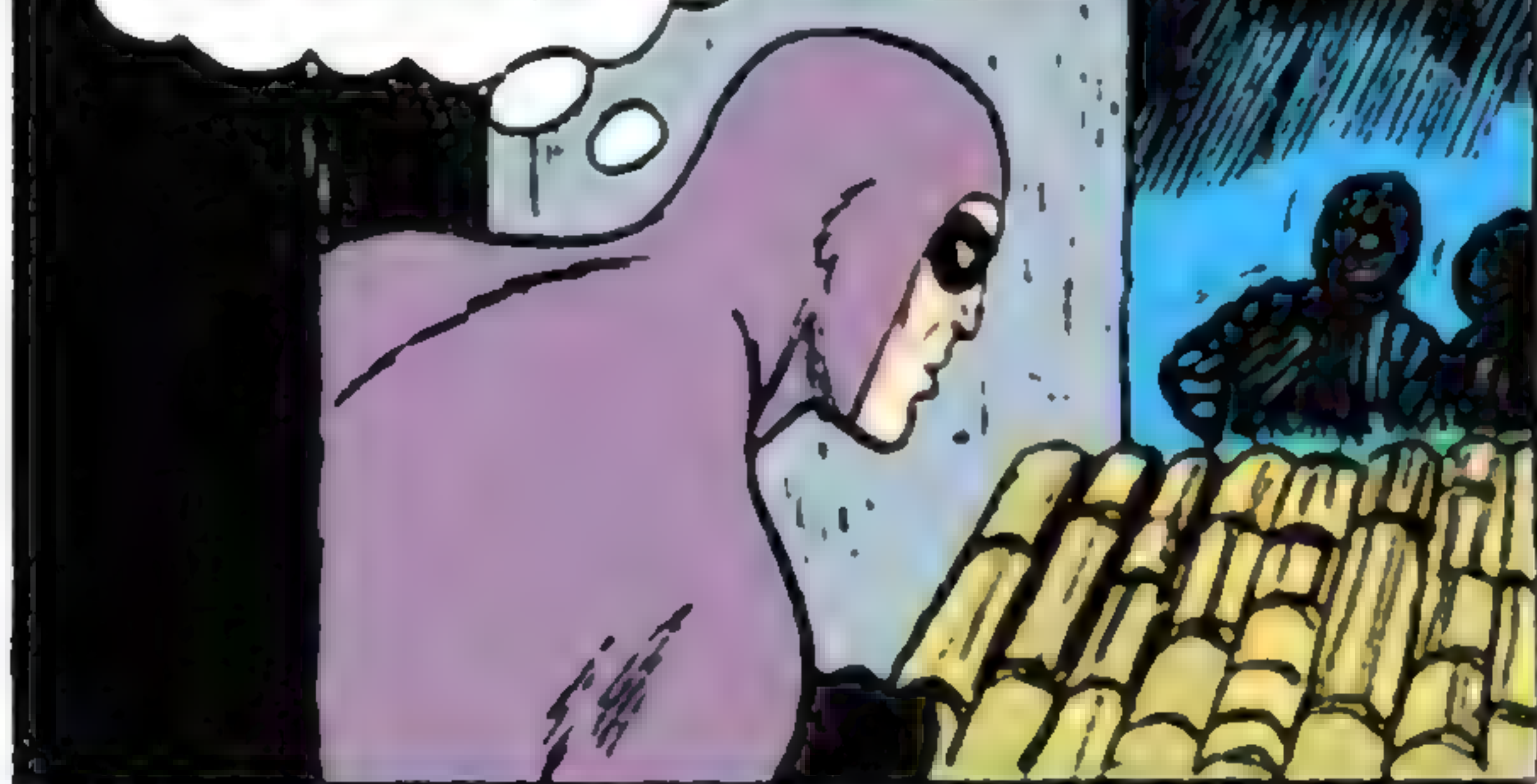
PANIC REIGNS...

**NOW,
MOVE!**

DARK FORMS... MOVING
TOWARD THE EXIT...
ONE OF THEM HAS
THE PEARL!

OUTSIDE, A SWIFTLY-MOVING
PLAN IS CARRIED OUT WITH
GREAT PRECISION...

THE FIRE ESCAPE! A NEATLY
ENGINEERED PLAN... I CAN
SEE NOW WHY THE PEARL
RAIDERS ARE SO HARD
TO CATCH!



AS THE PHANTOM SWINGS
DOWN IN PURSUIT...

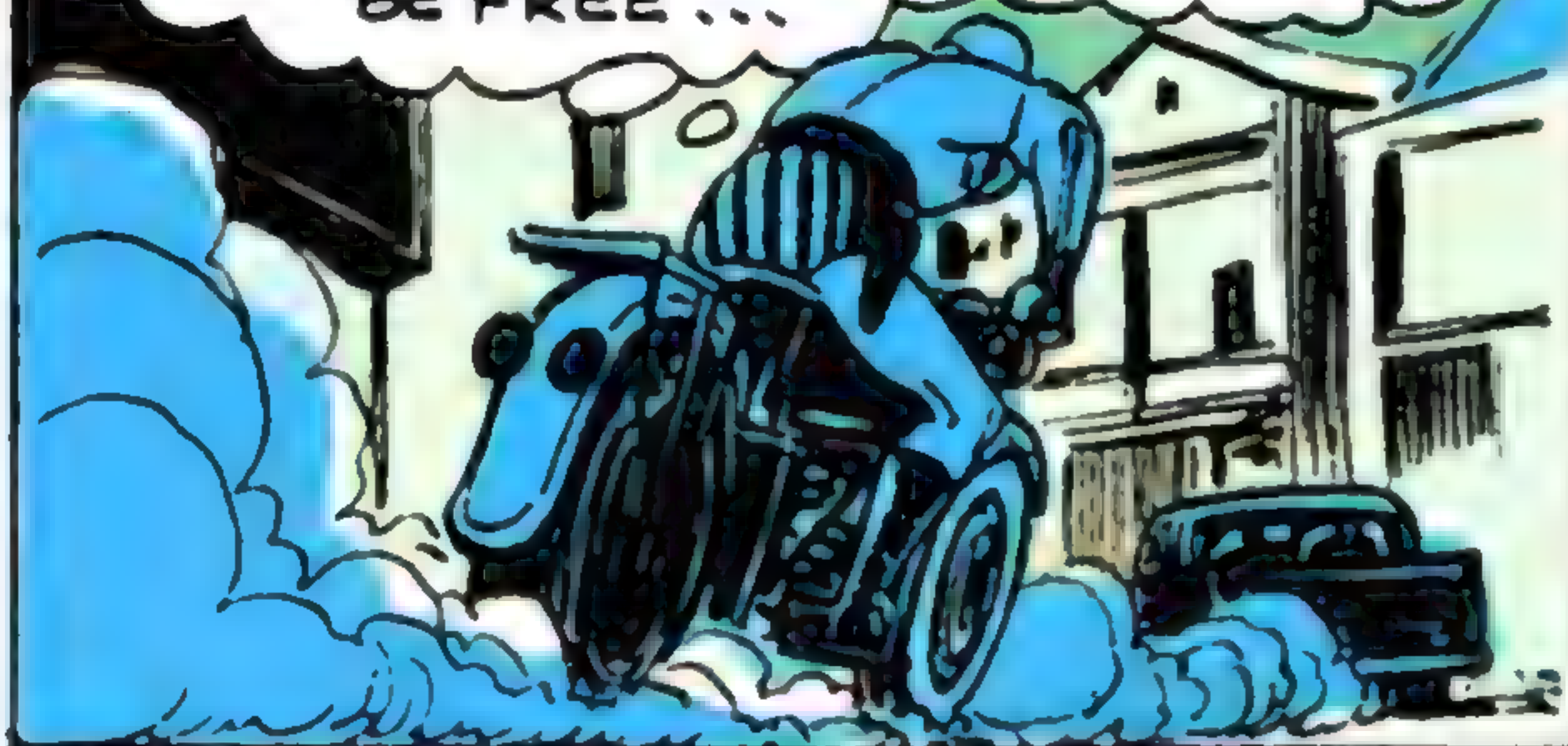
HMM... THE CHIEF HOOD /SW/IT
WITH THESE CHARACTERS...
HE'S THE **BRAINS** BEHIND
THE JOB!

MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED
BOSS... HEADING
FOR GETAWAY
JUNK!



THE GHOST WHO WALKS
COMMANDEERS A PASSING
MOTORCYCLE...

IF I PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER
THESE BARONS *NOW*, IT WILL BE
LIKE CUTTING OFF THE TAIL OF A
SNAKE... THE **HEAD** WILL STILL
BE FREE...



CLEVER... MAKING A GETAWAY
IN A CHINESE JUNK... ONE AMONG
THOUSANDS ALONG THE COAST!

WHERE IN BLAZES IS
THAT NEW DECK HAND?
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO
BE WAITING DOCKSIDE!



NEW DECK HAND... THIS
WOULD BE HIM COMING *NOW*!
AND THEY CAN'T BE VERY
FAMILIAR WITH HIM
IF HE'S **NEW**!





AS THE RAID PROGRESSES, THE GHOST WHO WALKS MOVES SWIFTLY TO PROTECT THE WORKERS...



RUN QUICKLY! HAVE THE POLICE LOCK THAT MAN UP! DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR PEARLS — THEY WILL BE RETURNED!

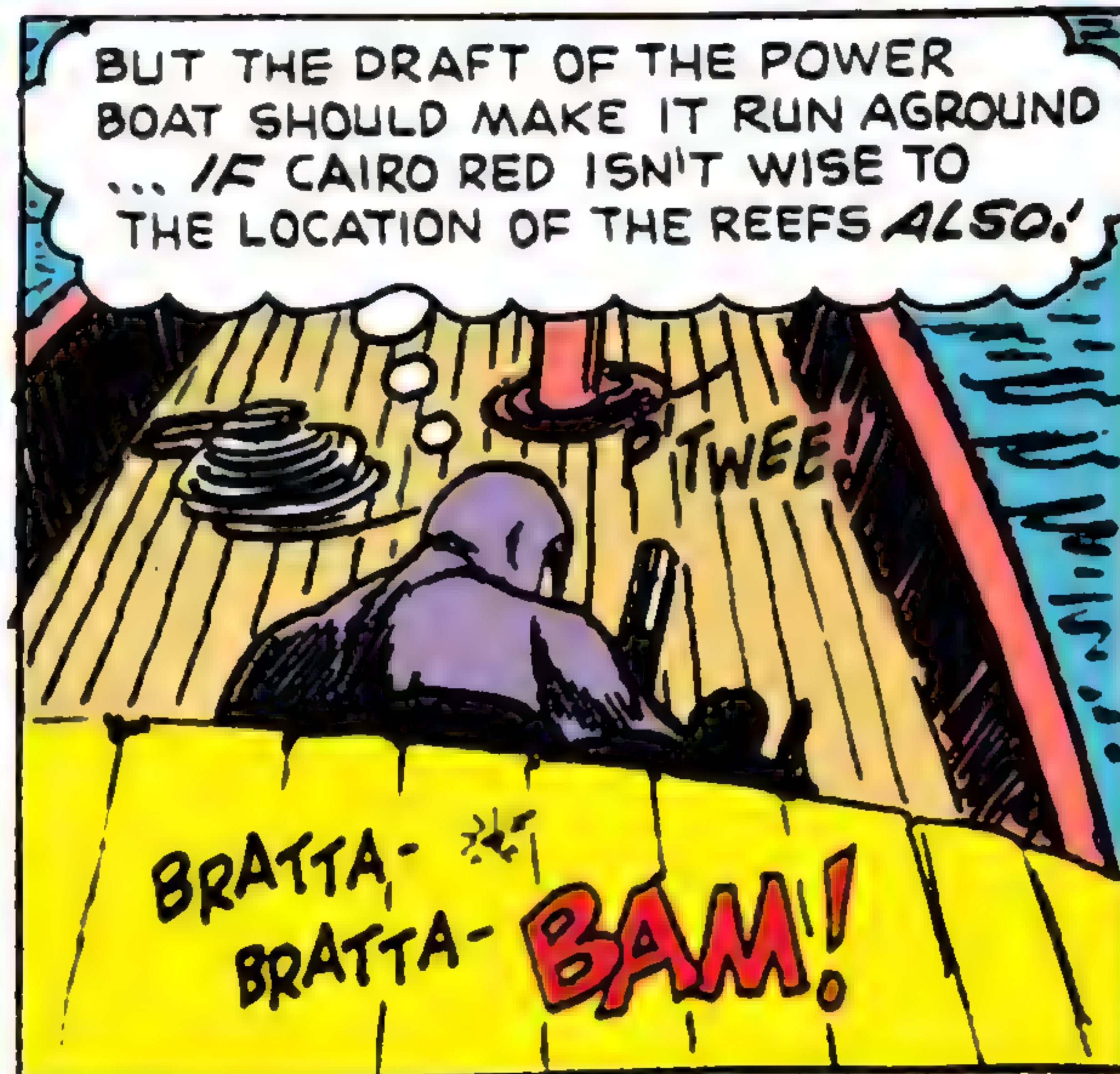
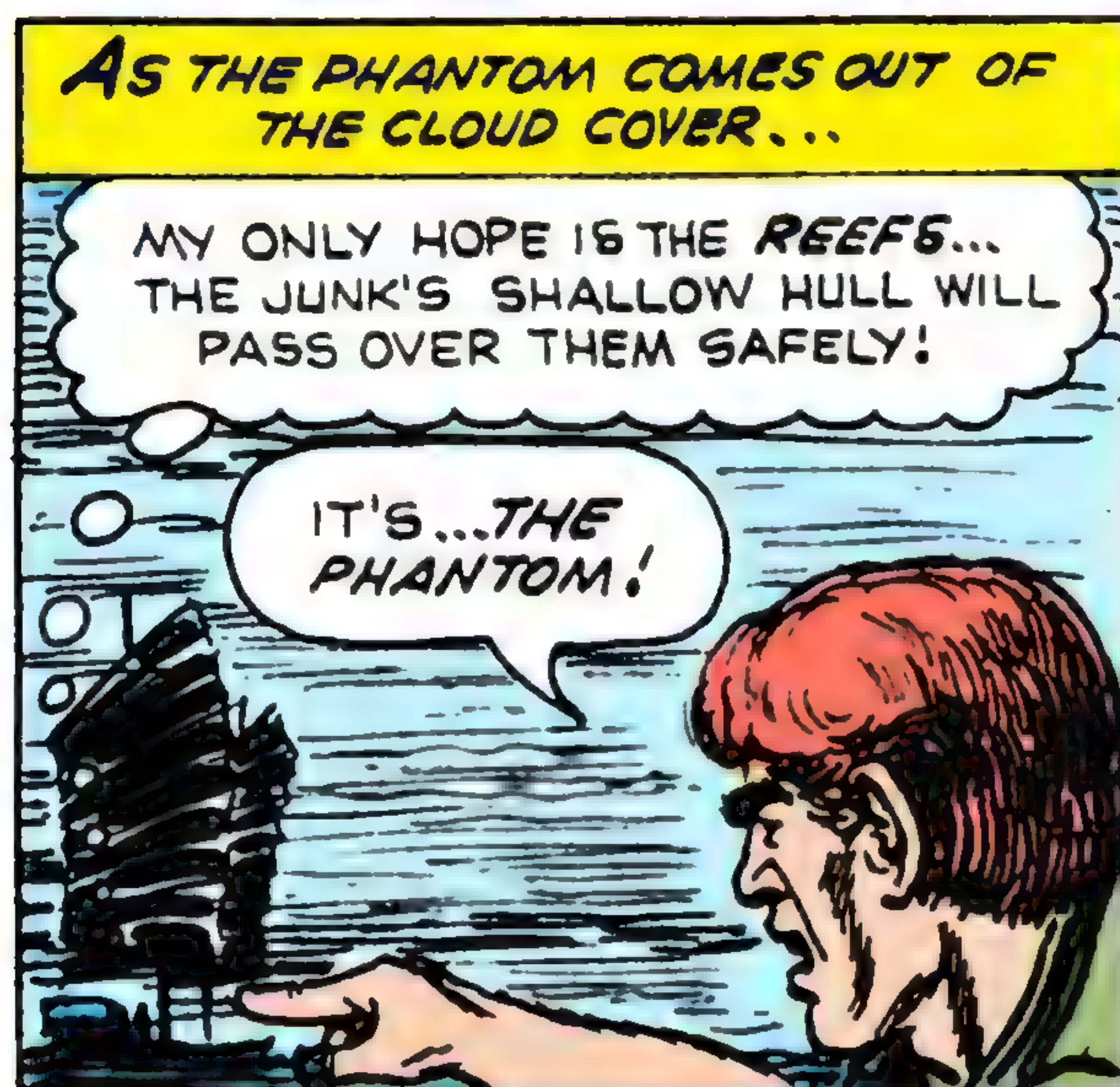
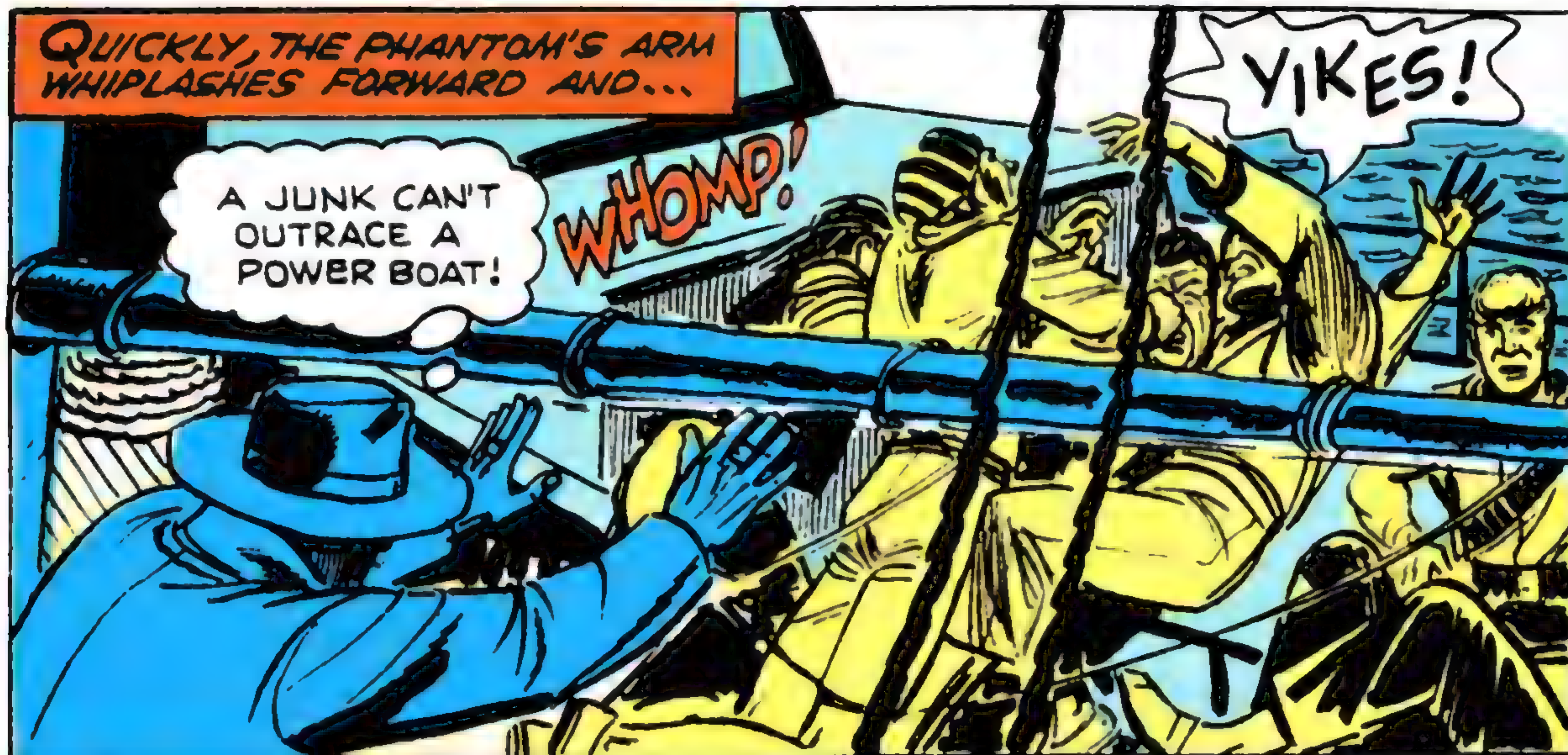


THE RAID OVER, THE JUNK SETS SAIL...



AND LATER, IN THE BAY OF BENGAL...





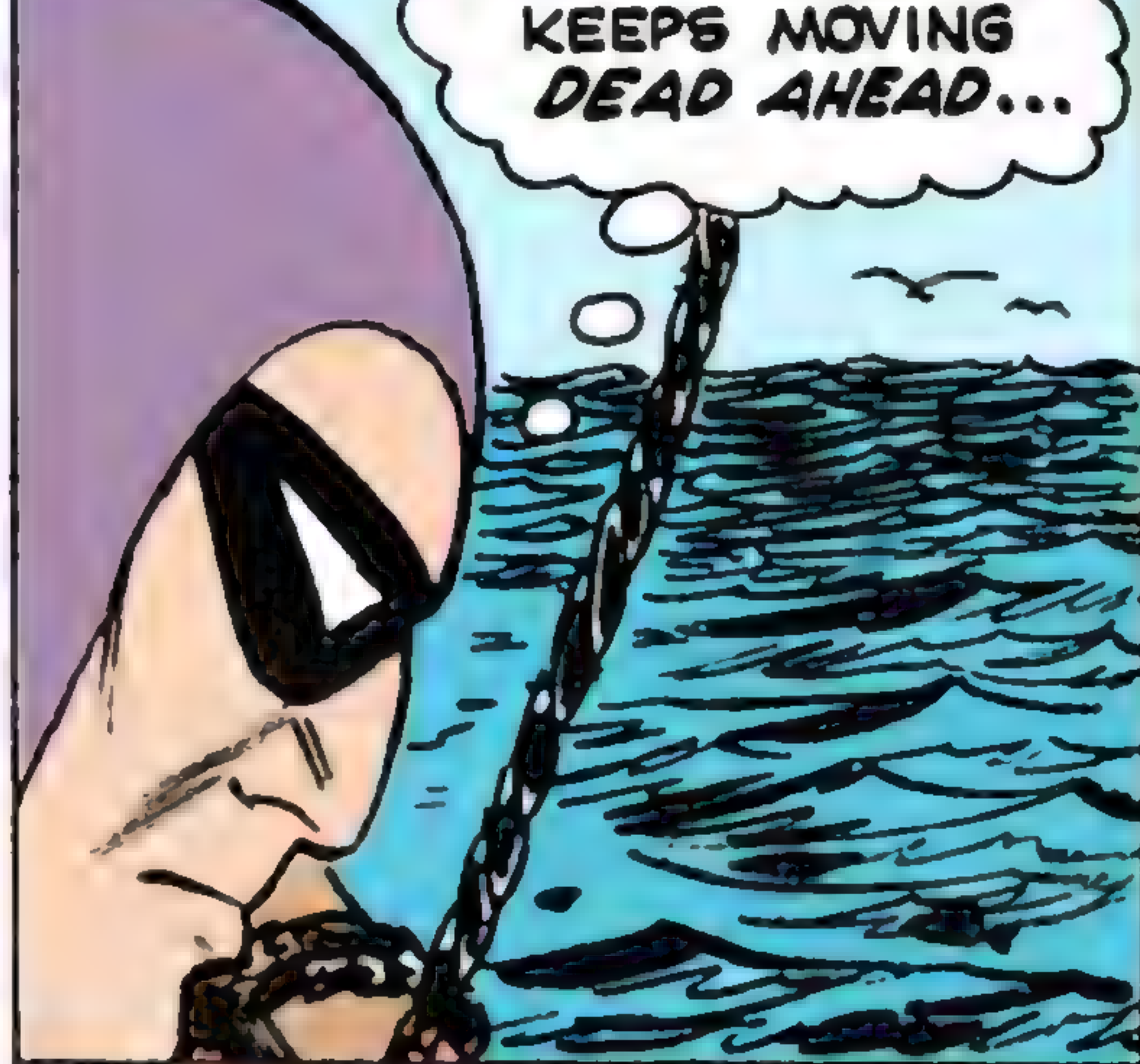
HOT LEAD PLAYS A PATTERN OF DEATH ON THE JUNK... CLOSER... CLOSER IT MOVES TOWARD THE HIDDEN REEFS...

A FEW MORE YARDS... JUST A FEW MORE YARDS...



THEN...

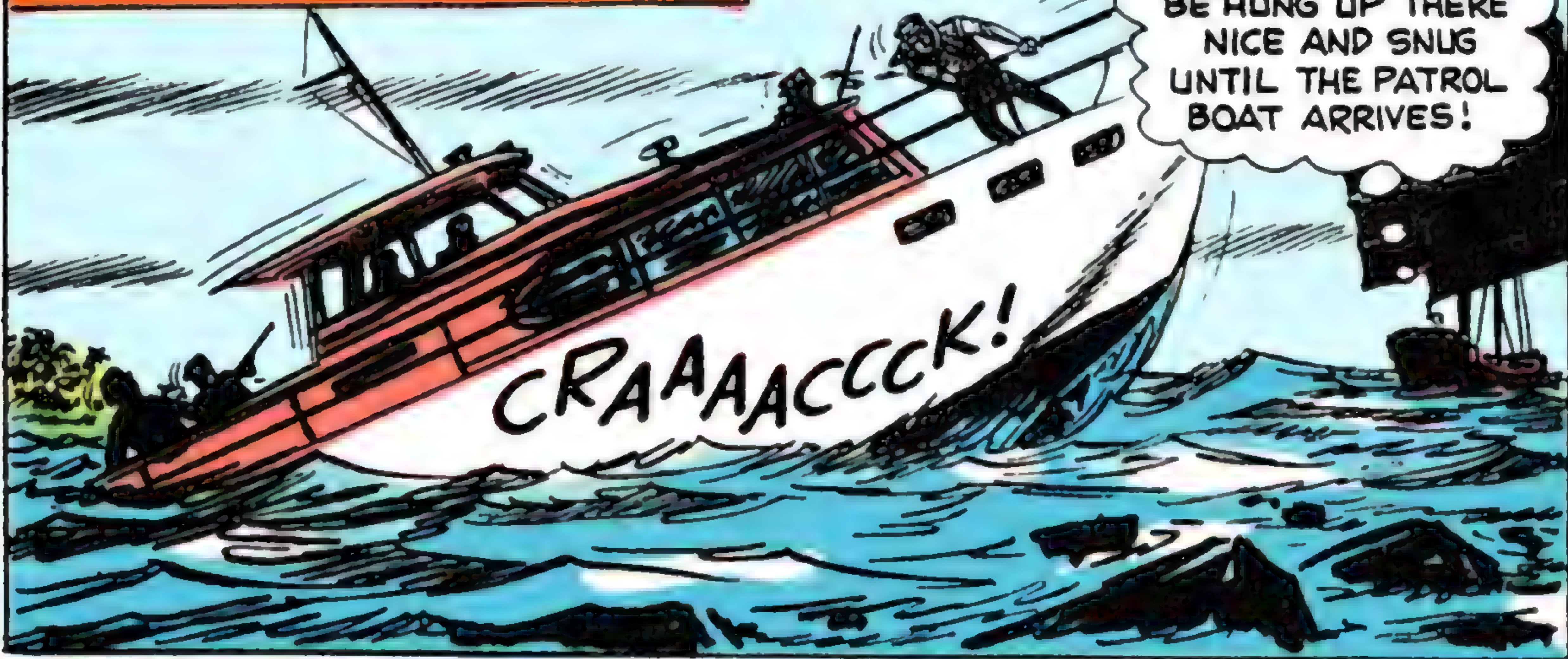
I'M OVER THEM... NOW IF CAIRO RED KEEPS MOVING DEAD AHEAD...



AND SCANT SECONDS LATER...

BULLSEYE! THEY'LL BE HUNG UP THERE NICE AND SNUG UNTIL THE PATROL BOAT ARRIVES!

CRAAACCK!



LATER, AT THE UANGAR VILLAGE...

THE PHANTOM RETURNS!

BUT HAS HE KEPT OUR BLACK PEARL SAFELY FROM THE RAIDERS?



THE UANGAR THANK YOU A THOUSAND TIMES, OH PHANTOM! WE PRAY YOU DID NOT FIND DANGER IN SERVING US!

EVERYTHING WENT PERFECTLY, CHIEF! YOUR PEARL WASN'T IN DANGER FOR A SINGLE SECOND!





CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM



**THE
PHANTOM**

THE STORY OF **HERO**

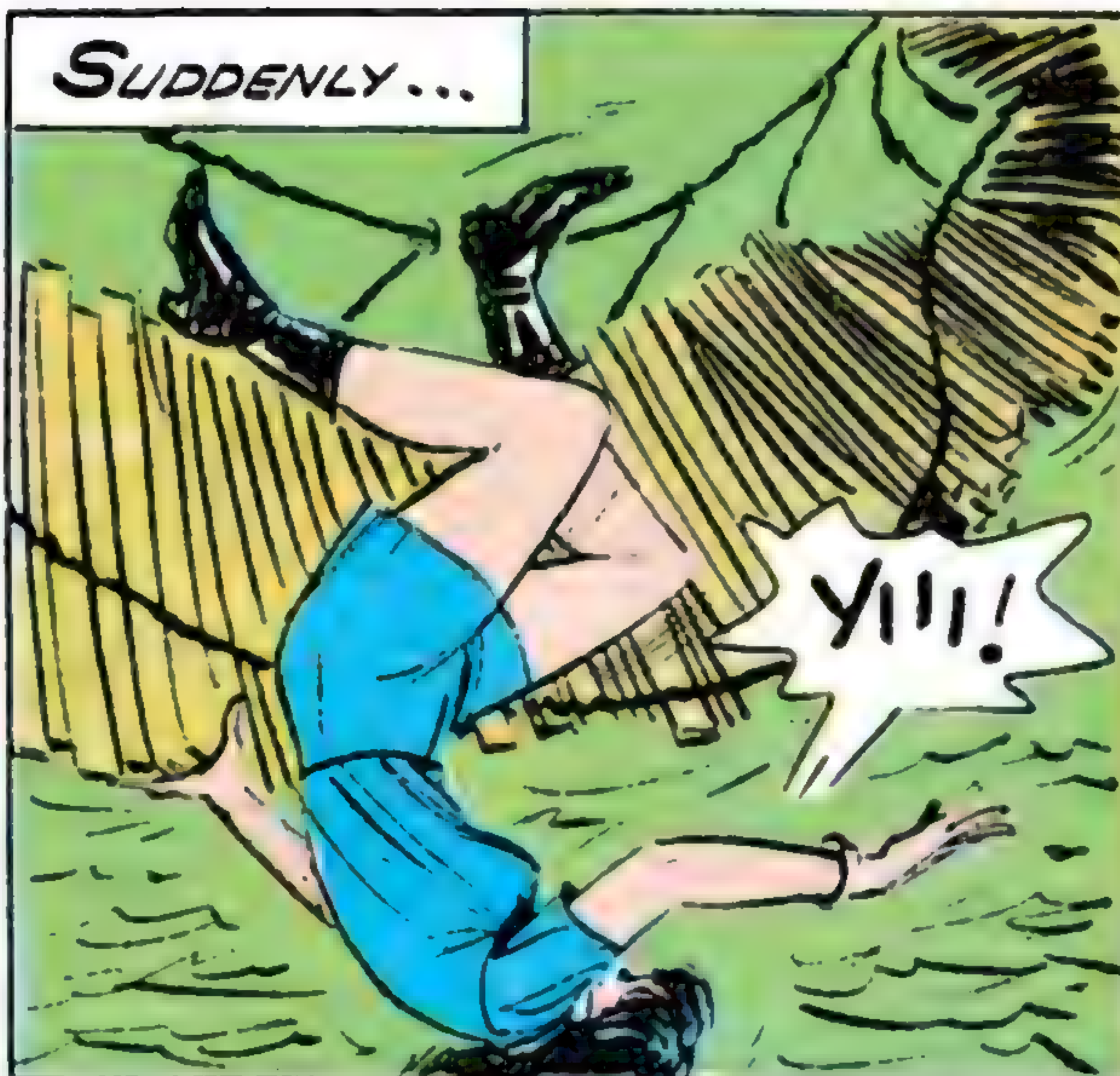


THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL
MANY STRANGE AND EXCITING
STORIES OF PHANTOMS PAST AND
PRESENT. PROBABLY THE MOST
INTERESTING OF ALL TELLS OF OUR
PHANTOM AND HIS AMAZING HORSE,
HERO!

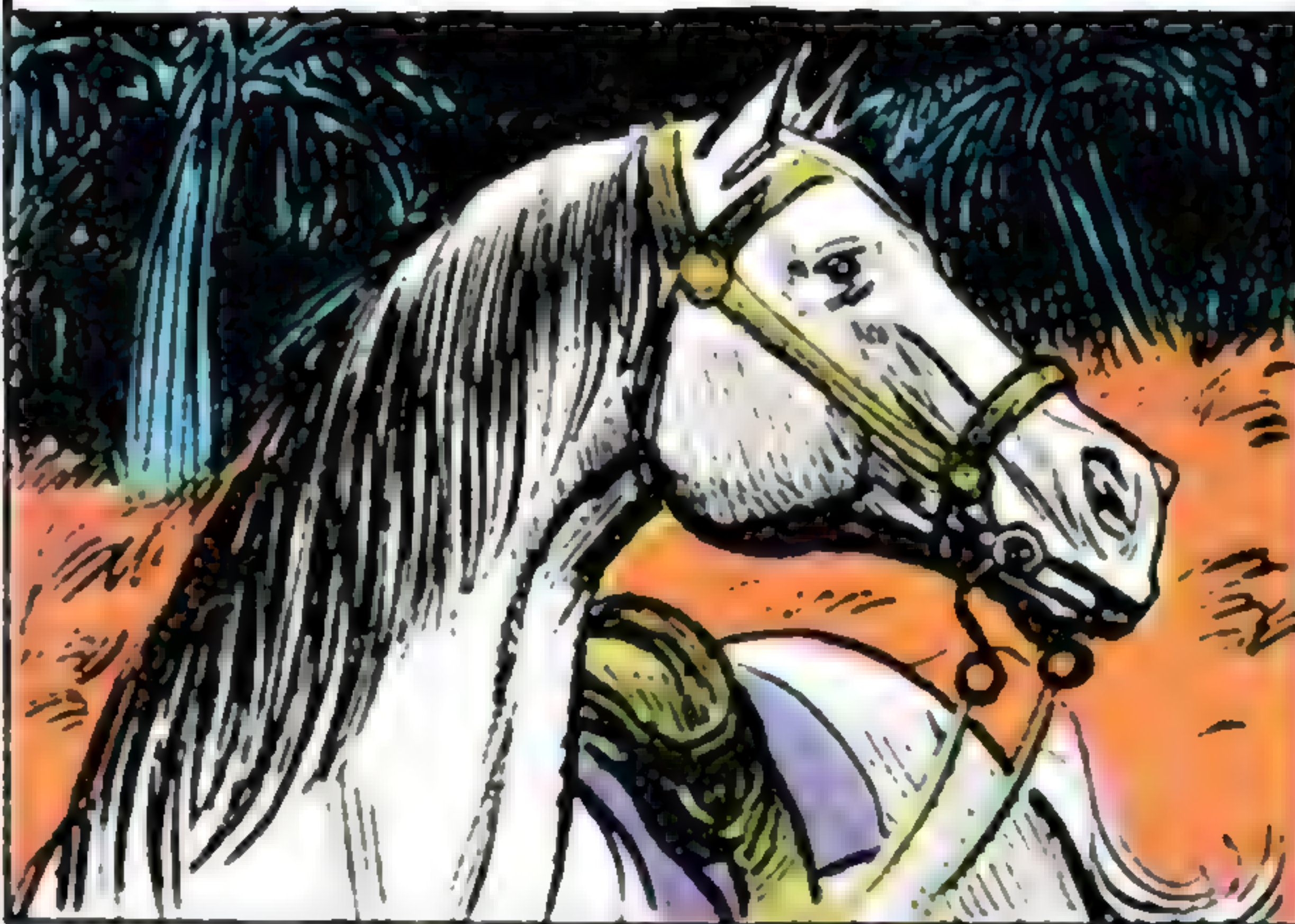
HAVING DECIDED TO PAY THE PHANTOM A SURPRISE VISIT, DIANA PALMER CROSSES A CRUDE ROPE BRIDGE OVER A RAGING RIVER...



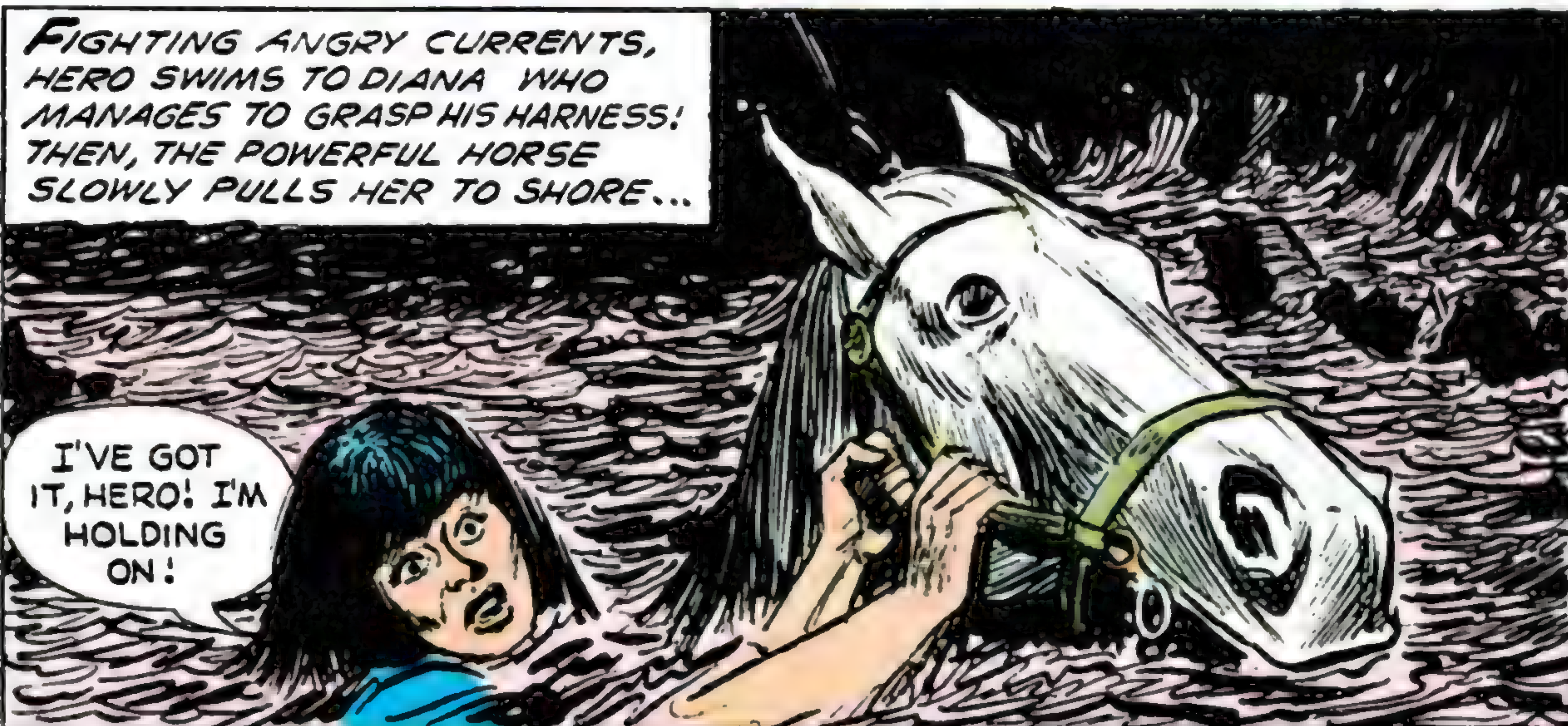
SUDDENLY...



NEAR THE RIVER, HERO HAS BEEN GRAZING ALONE... HIS SENSITIVE EARS PICK UP THE SOUND OF DIANA'S SCREAMS...



FIGHTING ANGRY CURRENTS, HERO SWIMS TO DIANA WHO MANAGES TO GRASP HIS HARNESS! THEN, THE POWERFUL HORSE SLOWLY PULLS HER TO SHORE...



LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...

HE SAVED
MY LIFE!

THERE IS NO HORSE IN THE
WORLD LIKE HERO! HE IS A
BRAVE AND GALLANT
FRIEND!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME... HOW
WERE YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO
FIND A HORSE LIKE *HERO*?

IT'S QUITE A STORY, DIANA!
IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME
WHEN I FIRST BECAME
PHANTOM!

"YEARS AGO, TWO EVIL MEN
TRAVELED TOWARD THE KINGDOM
OF KABORA WITH ONE PURPOSE...
TO *KIDNAP* THE DAUGHTER OF
KING SUROBI!"

THERE IT IS! SUROBI'S
PALACE! JUST AS THE
MAP SAYS... THE JUNGLE
ON ONE SIDE AND
DESERT ON THE OTHER!

HE'S VERY
WEALTHY! HE'LL
PAY *ANY* RANSOM
WE ASK!

YEAH! BUT
FIRST, WE'VE GOT
TO GET HIS
DAUGHTER! I
HEAR HE HAS
VICIOUS DOGS
GUARDING THE
PLACE!

IT'LL TAKE
MORE'N A PACK
OF DOGS TO
OUT-SMART
NEWT LESTER!

WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT
ALL THIS *RAW MEAT*? THEY
WON'T PAY *US* ANY ATTENTION
WHEN THEY SEE THIS!

THAT NIGHT, THE KIDNAPPERS
BEGIN TO EXECUTE THEIR PLAN...



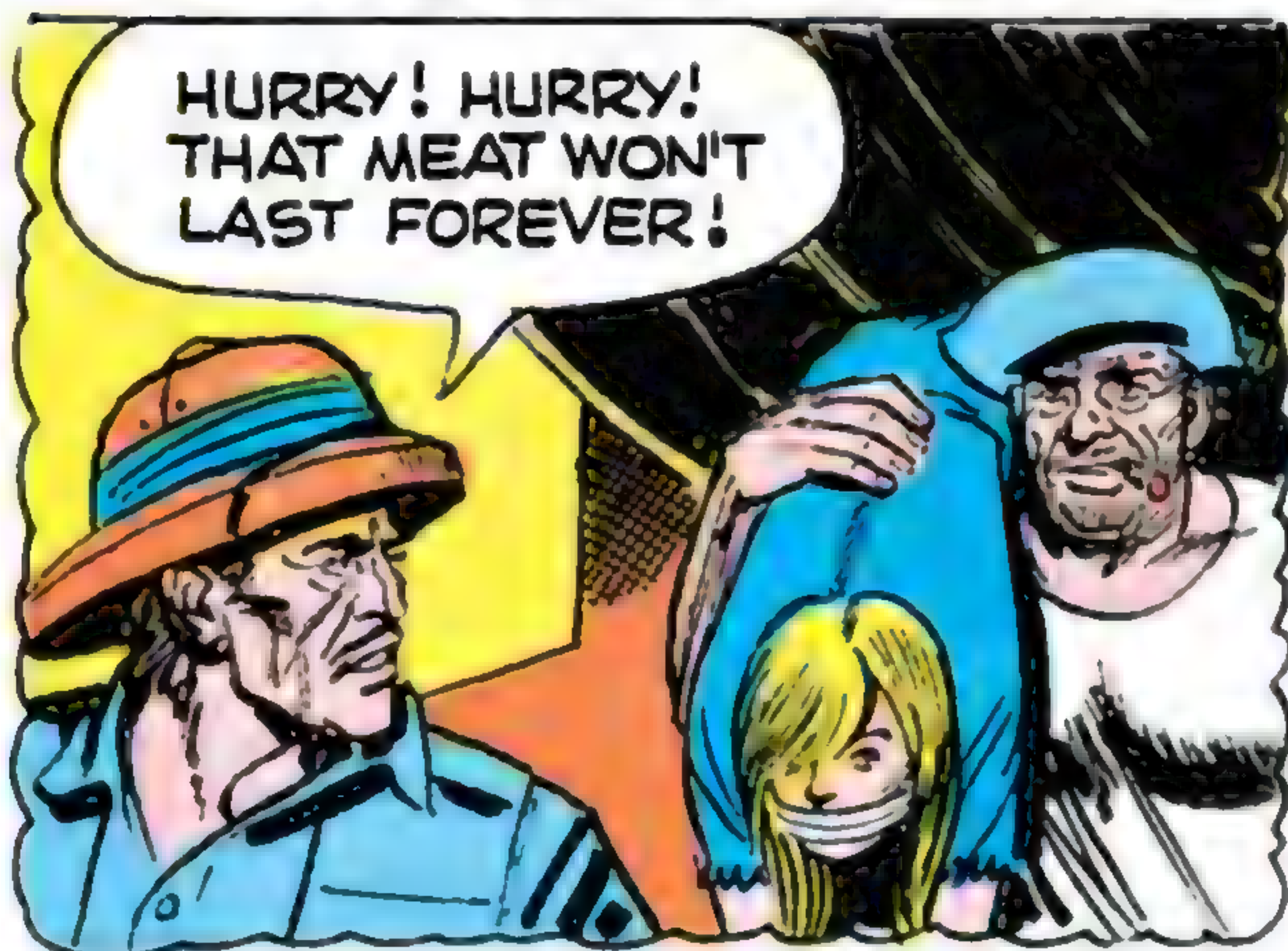
THEY KNOW THE LAYOUT
OF THE PALACE...



...AND SOON FIND THEIR WAY
TO THE GIRL'S ROOM...



WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE KIDNAPPERS MAKE THEIR ESCAPE, WHILE THE REST OF THE PALACE SLEEPS...



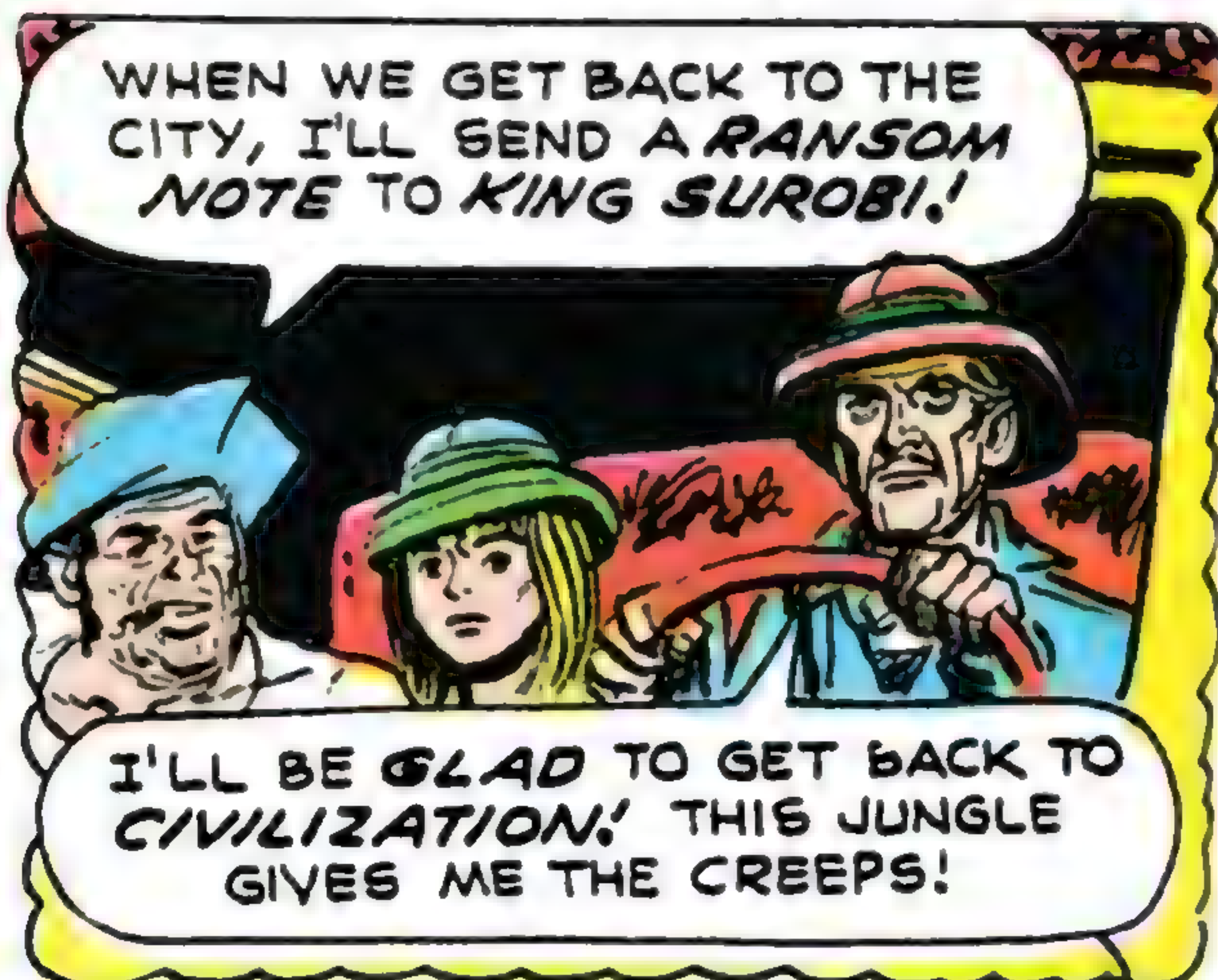
SWIFTLY, THEY DRIVE DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE...



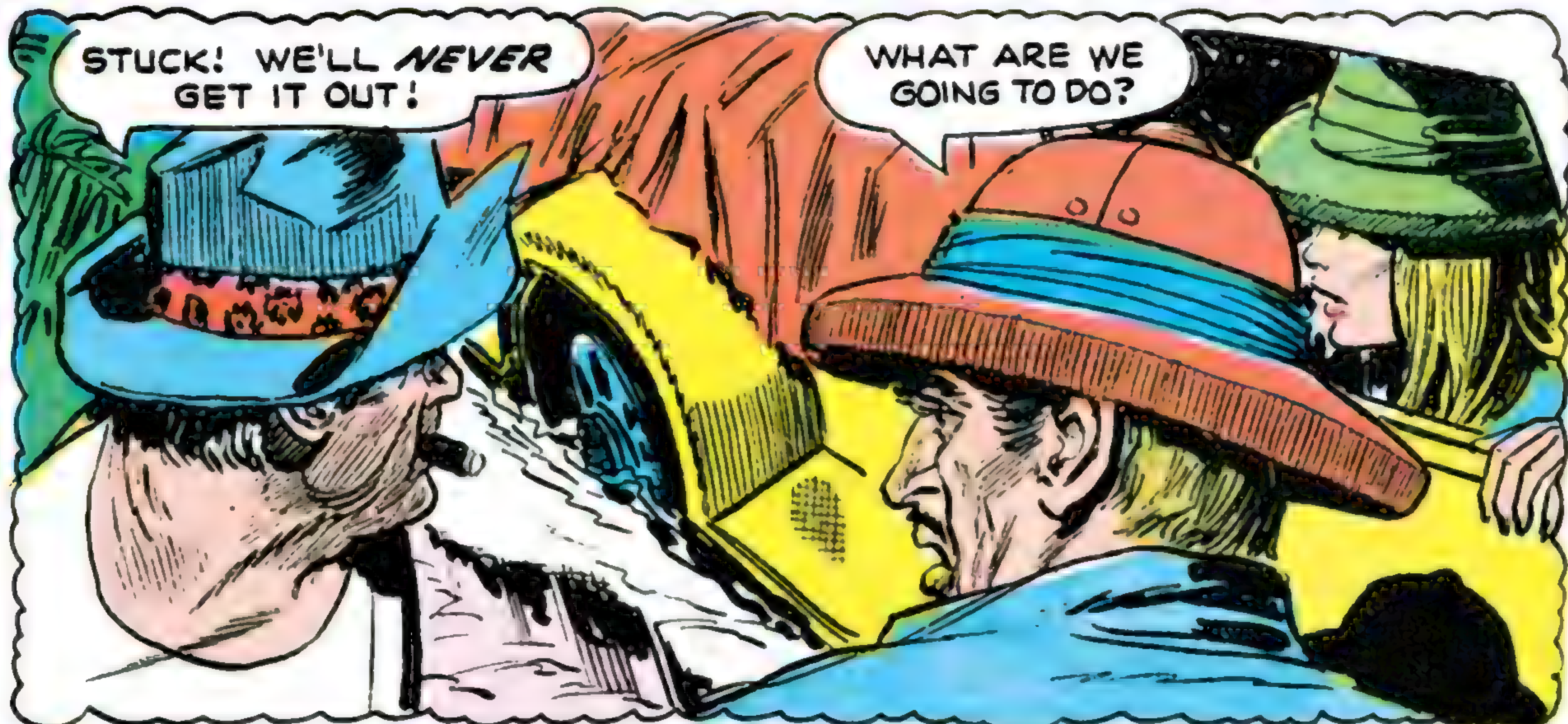
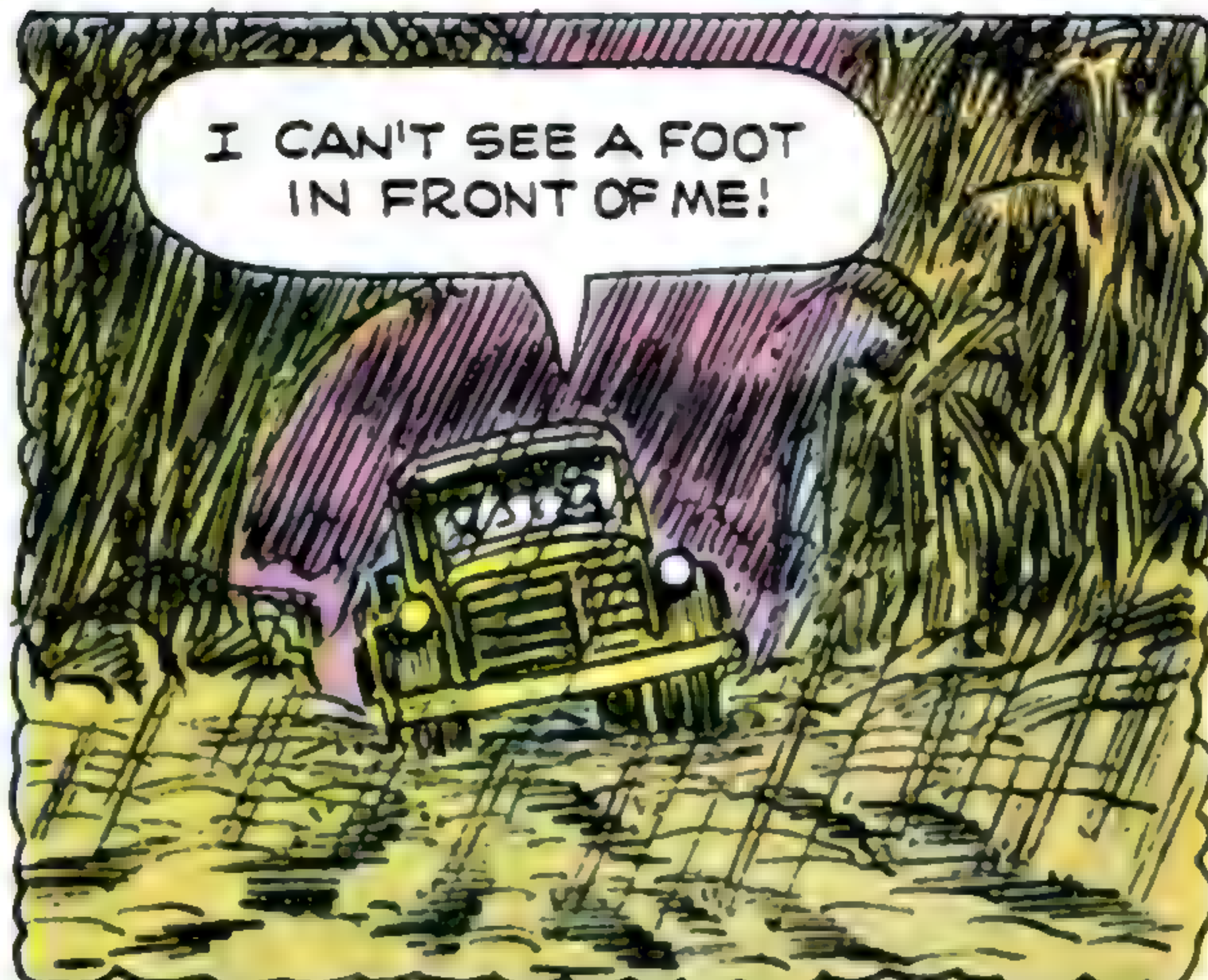
MILES AWAY FROM THE PALACE, THEY FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO MAKE CAMP...



THE NEXT DAY THEY CONTINUE
THEIR JOURNEY...



BUT THE JUNGLE HAS STRANGE
WAYS OF DEALING WITH EVIL...

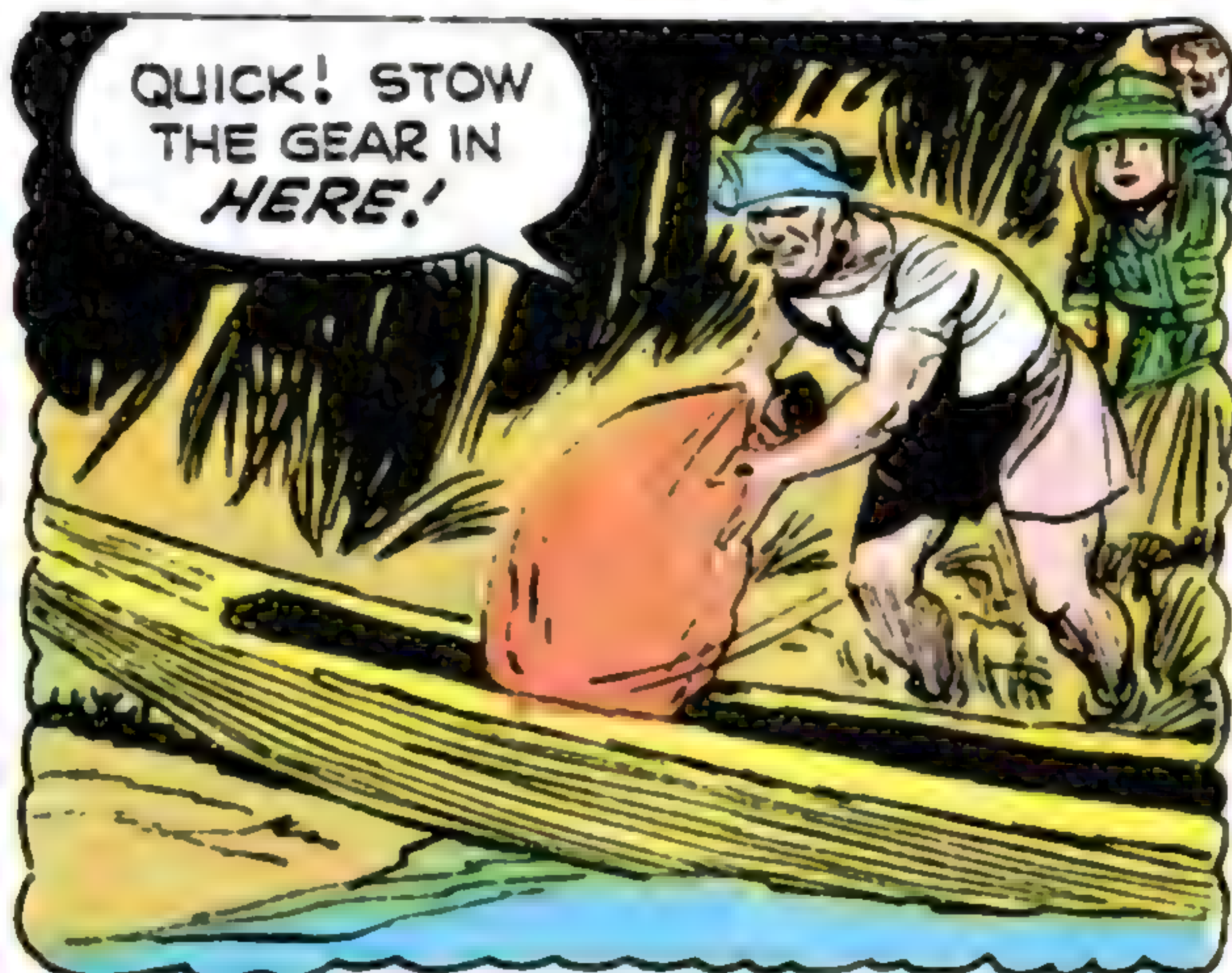


SLOWLY, THE TRIO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THEY ARE ENTERING BENGALI COUNTRY, AND SILENT EYES ARE WATCHING ...



SOON, JUNGLE DRUMS BEGIN TO SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...

THEY REACH THE RIVER, AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, FIND A CANOE...



BUT THEIR LUCK TAKES A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE...



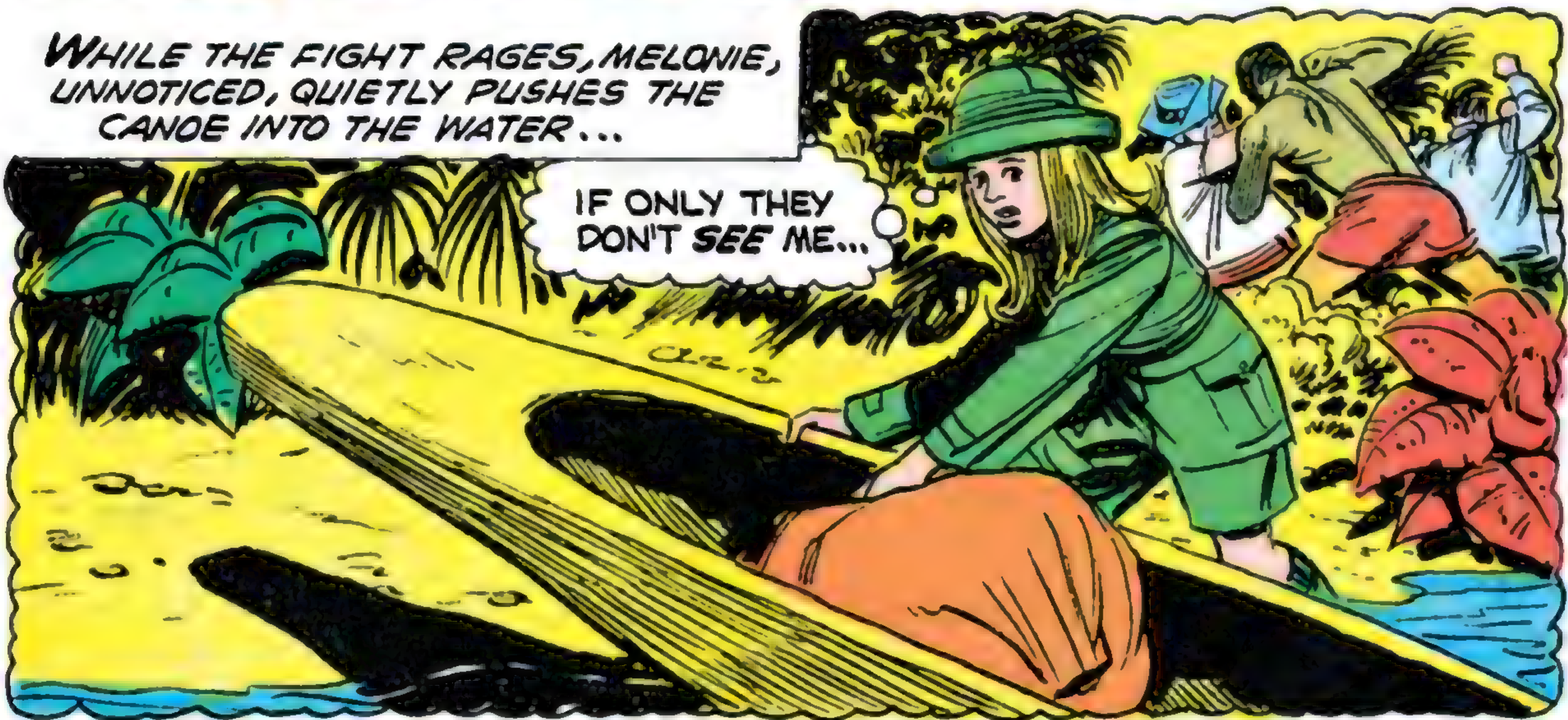
TRY AND STOP US!



ANOTHER NATIVE APPEARS, AND THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL!



WHILE THE FIGHT RAGES, MELONIE, UNNOTICED, QUIETLY PUSHES THE CANOE INTO THE WATER...



IF ONLY THEY DON'T SEE ME...

HEY! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!!



GONE!

I *KNEW* I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO *YOU*! IT WAS A HAIRBRAINED IDEA FROM THE START!



MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM ARRIVES TO FIND THE TWO MEN IN THE HANDS OF THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE...

A THOUSAND POISON ARROWS ARE POINTED AT YOU, GENTLEMEN! ONLY MY PRESENCE IS KEEPING YOU ALIVE! WHY WERE YOU IN THE JUNGLE WITH A YOUNG CHILD?

OUT WITH IT!



THEY QUICKLY CONFESS THE KIDNAPPING...

YOU KIDNAPPED KING SUROBI'S DAUGHTER, MELONIE?! WHERE IS SHE?

SHE ESCAPED! ... TOOK THE CANOE DOWN THE RIVER!



KEEP THESE MEN PRISONER UNTIL I RETURN! I'LL HAND THEM OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, THEN!

YES, O' GHOST WHO WALKS!



I WOULDN'T ADVISE TRYING TO ESCAPE, GENTLEMEN ... THOSE POISON ARROWS KILL IN SECONDS!



I'VE GOT TO FIND MELONIE! KING SAROBI IS A FRIEND OF MINE! I REMEMBER HER WHEN SHE WAS ONLY A BABY!



*MILES AHEAD, MELONIE DRIFTS
IN THE CANOE... IN HER HASTE TO
ESCAPE, SHE HAS LEFT THE PADDLE
ON SHORE...*

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
I'M GOING, BUT ANY-
THING IS BETTER THAN
BEING WITH THOSE
AWFUL MEN!



*EXHAUSTED, SHE
FALLS ASLEEP...*



NEXT MORNING...

I'M ASHORE! I
BETTER GET BACK
IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE RIVER WHERE
IT'S SAFE!



AAGGH!

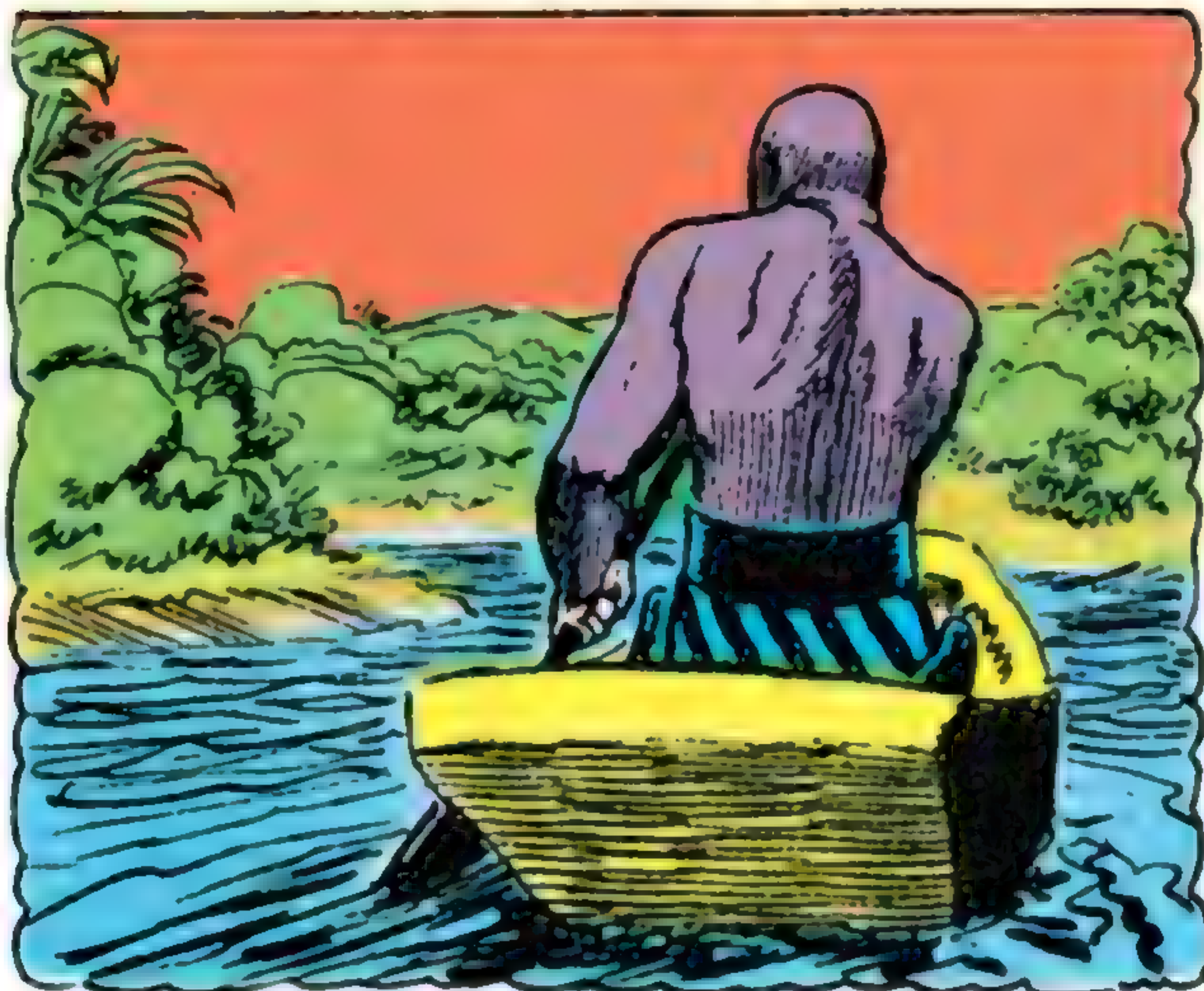
YII!



TAKE
HER TO THE
CHIEF!



**WHILE THE PHANTOM SEARCHES
THE RIVER BANK...**



**MELONIE IS TAKEN TO THE CHIEF
OF THE SINKU TRIBE... A REBEL
BAND OF NATIVE OUTLAWS...**



THE CHIEF SPEAKS...

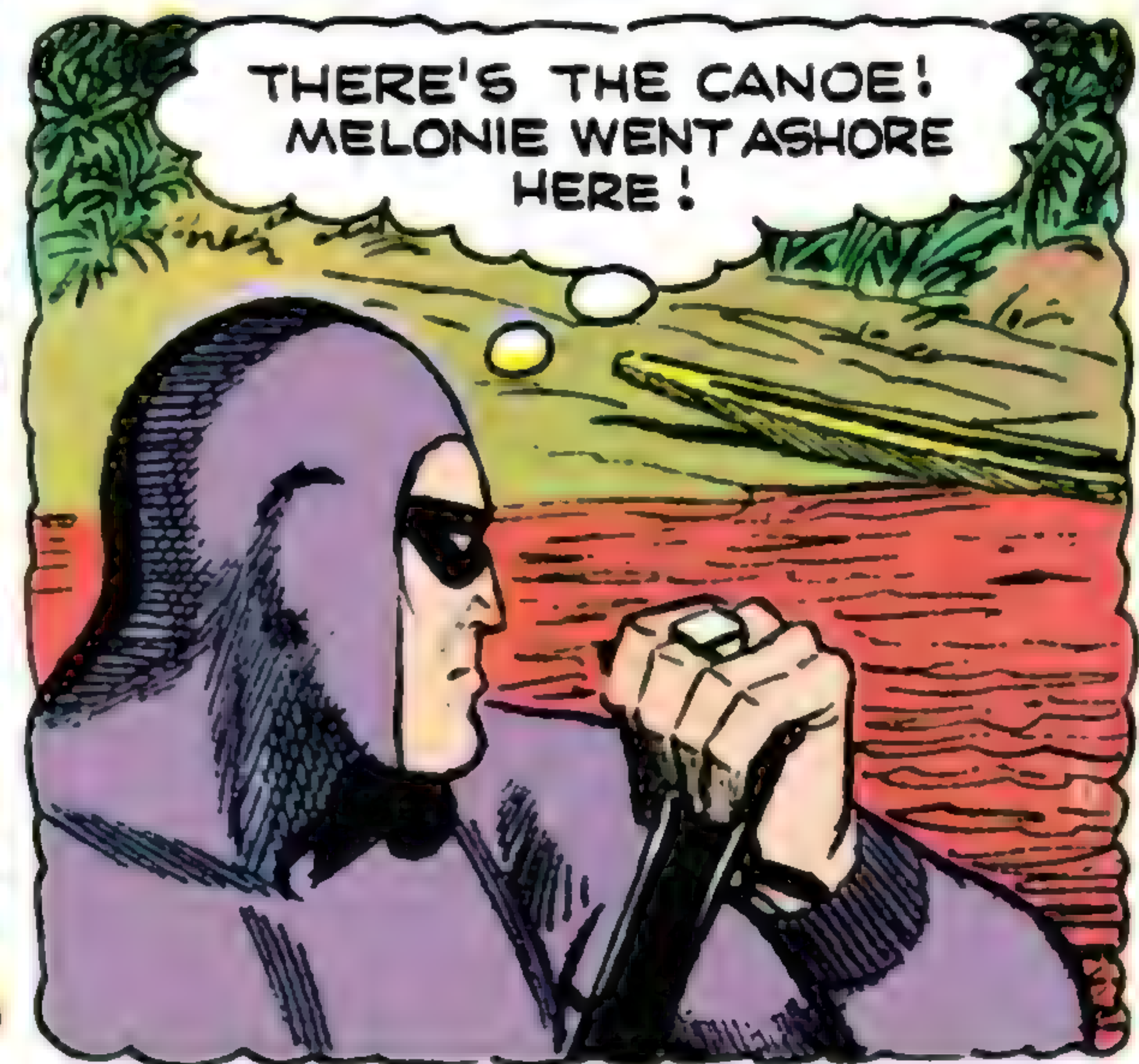
JUNGLE DRUMS TELL ME THIS IS
THE DAUGHTER OF KING SUROBI OF
KABORA! SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY
TWO MEN WHO HAVE SINCE
BEEN CAPTURED!



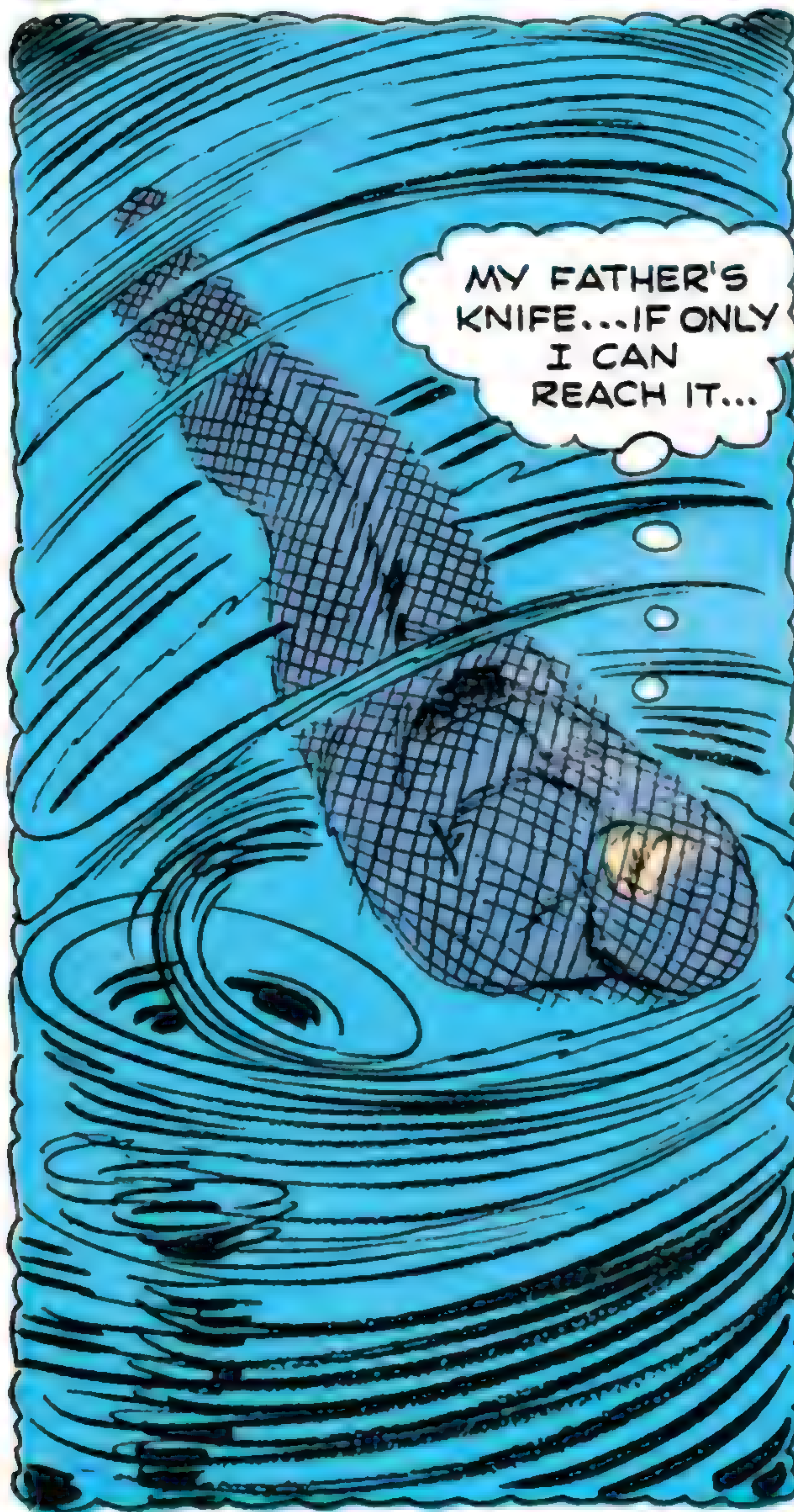
NOW THE RANSOM
WILL BE OURS!



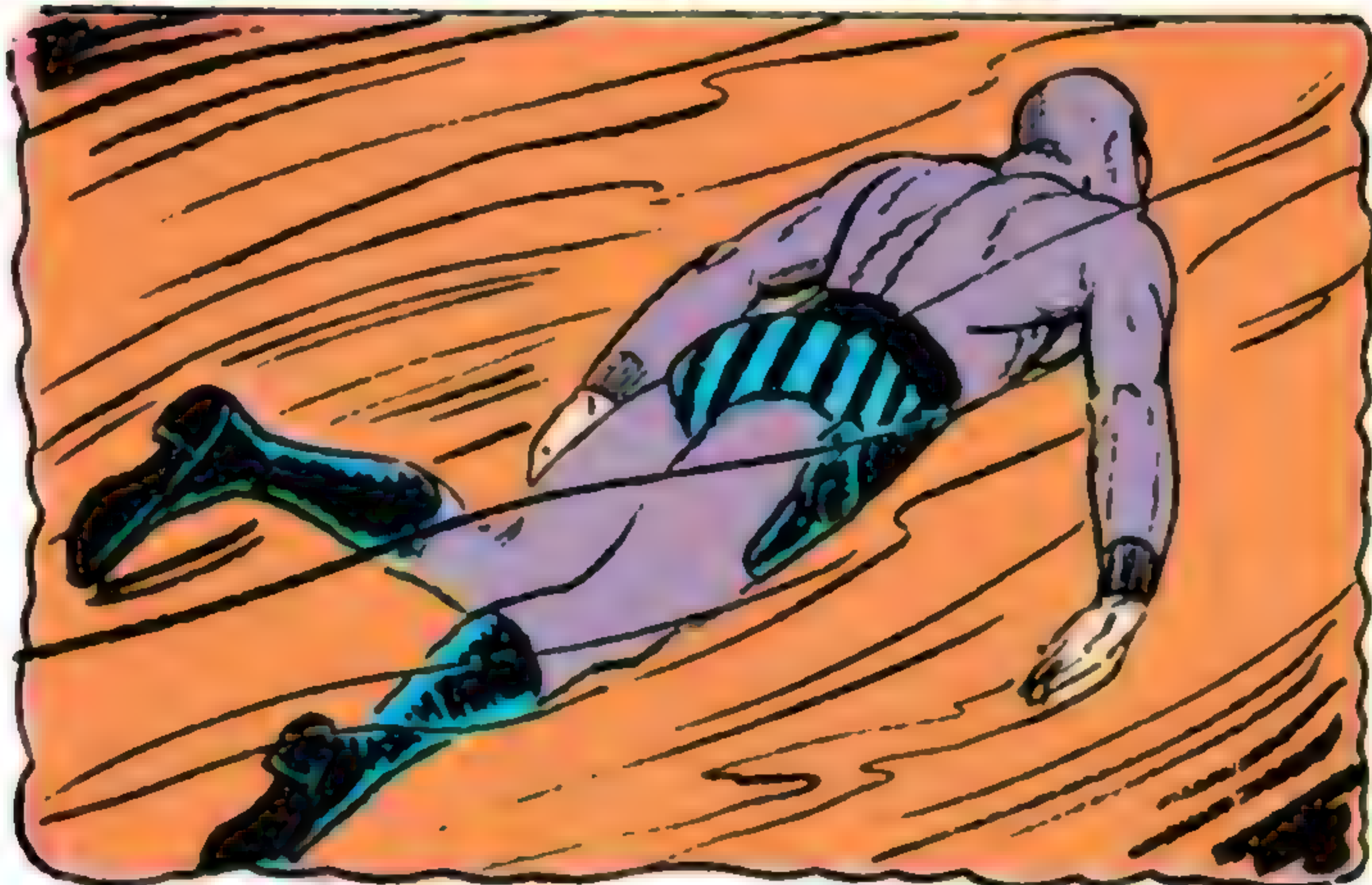
THERE'S THE CANOE!
MELONIE WENT ASHORE
HERE!







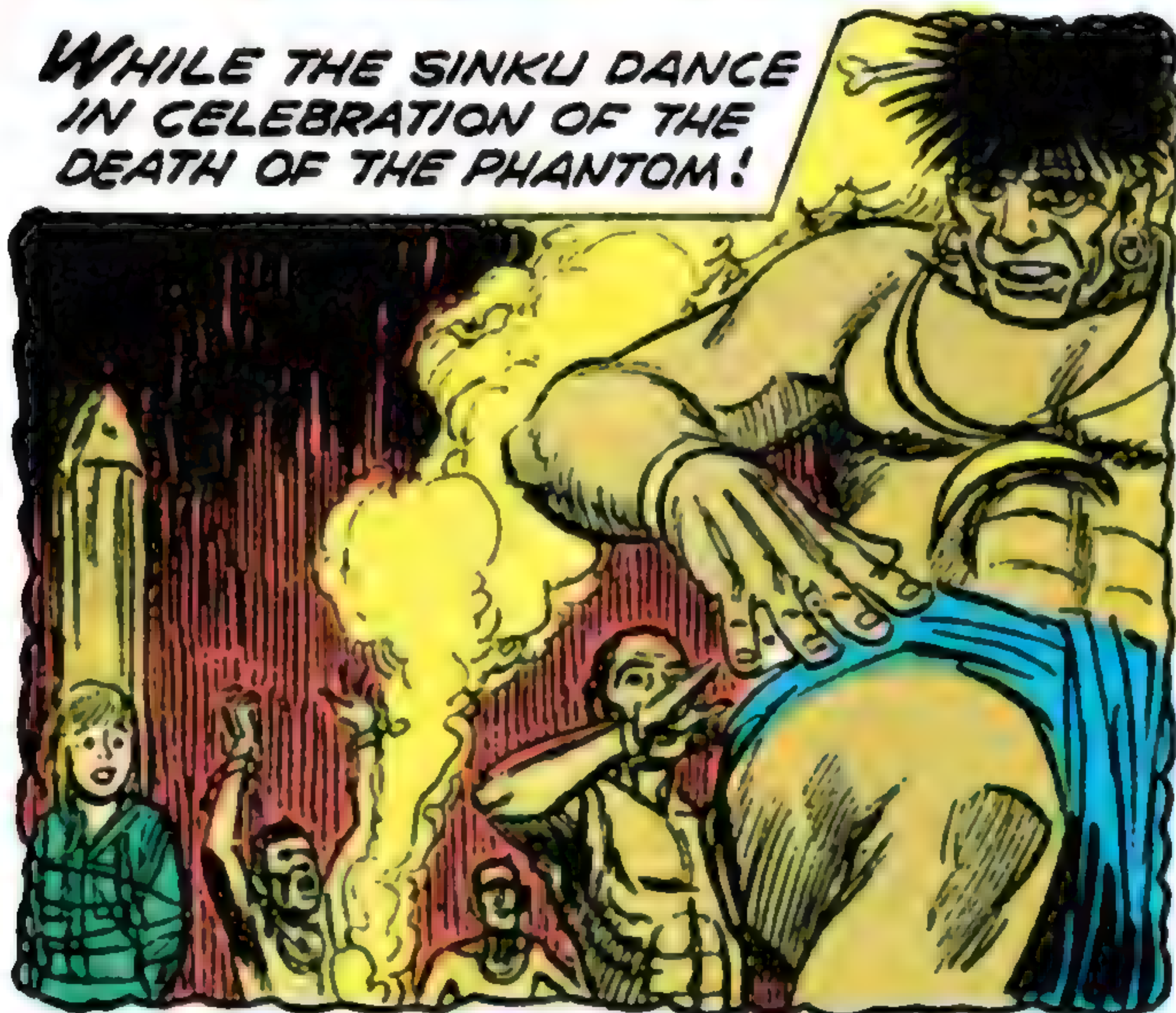
**BUT THE PHANTOM IS NOT DEAD!
WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN, HE
FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE
THROUGH THE ANGRY WHIRLPOOL...**



**... AND CLINGS TO A ROCK TO
CATCH HIS BREATH!**



**WHILE THE SINKU DANCE
IN CELEBRATION OF THE
DEATH OF THE PHANTOM!**



**SUDDENLY, THE DANCE STOPS
AS THE NATIVES SENSE AN EERIE,
UNKNOWN
PRESENCE...**



**SOMEONE
WATCHING!**

**WHO COULD
IT BE?**

**THE LEGEND OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS BROUGHT HOME
TO THEM AGAIN, AS THE PHANTOM STEPS FROM THE JUNGLE.
THE NATIVES RUN IN PANIC, IGNORING THEIR CHIEF'S ORDERS!
THE SIGHT OF THE PHANTOM IS ENOUGH!**



**AIEEE!
HE
LIVES!!**

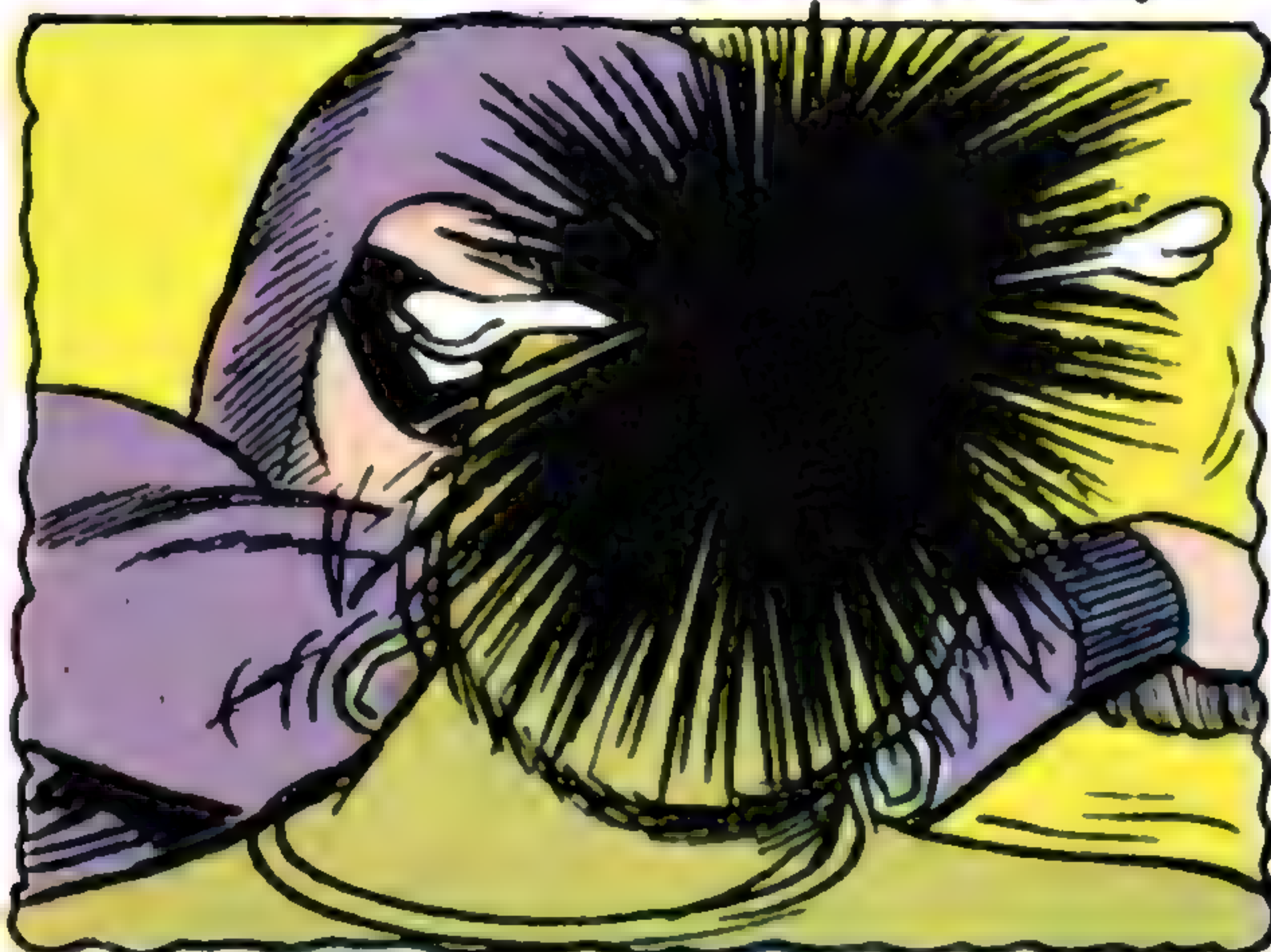
**I TOLD YOU
HE COULD
NOT DIE!**

**STOP!
COME
BACK!**



THE CHIEF, THOUGH A HARDENED JUNGLE FIGHTER, IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF THE PHANTOM!

"WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY, HIS BLOWS SOUND LIKE THUNDER!" ... OLD JUNGLE SAYING.



THE
PHANTOM

THE STORY OF
HERO PART
TWO

The LONG TRIP HOME

AFTER RESCUING THE PRINCESS
MELONIE FROM SINKU OUTLAWS,
THE PHANTOM HEADS THE CANOE
TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF
KABORA, AND HER FATHER, KING
SUROBI. BUT, MANY DANGERS
STILL LIE AHEAD!

GET DOWN,
MELONIE!
THEY MEAN
BUSINESS!

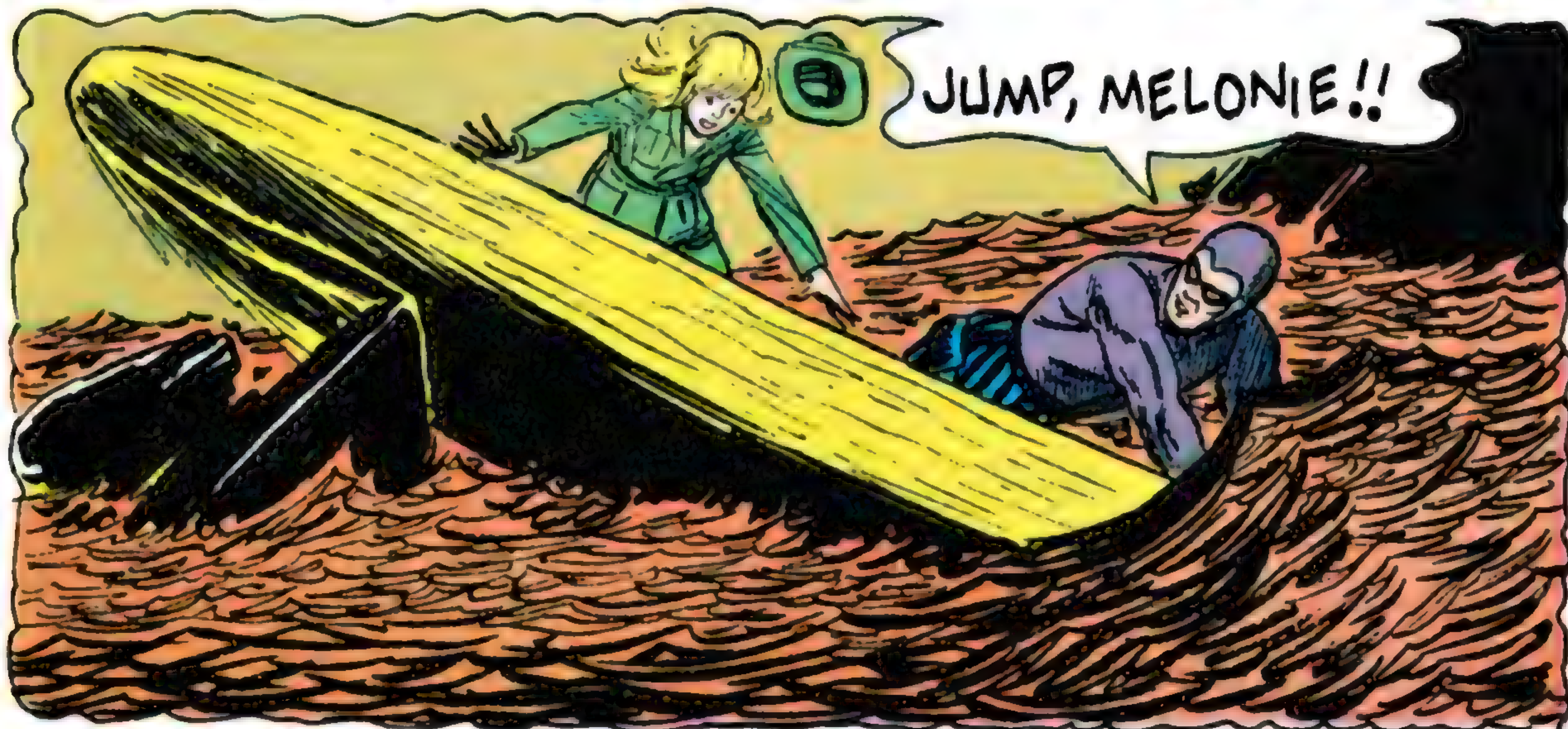




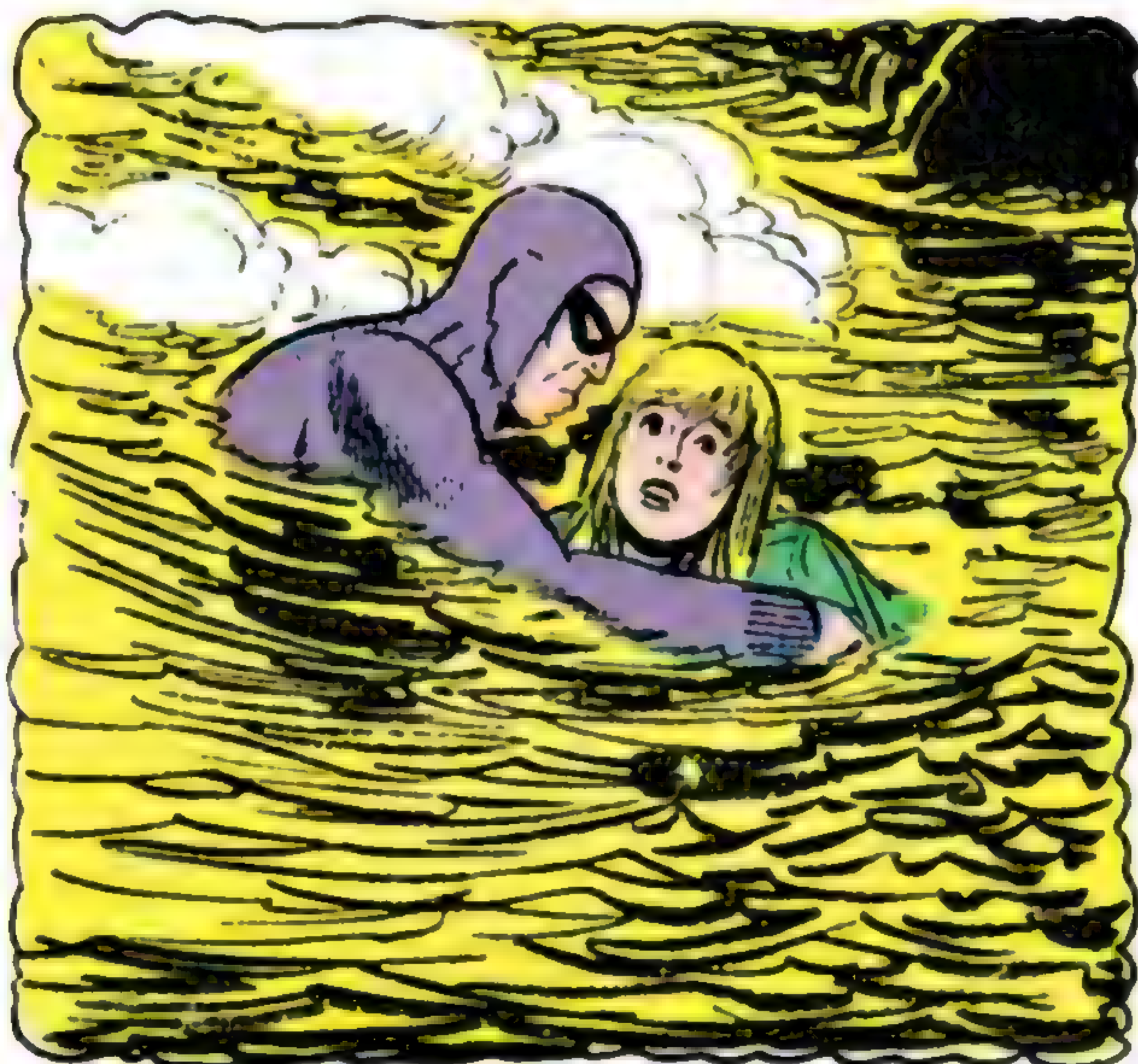
SOON YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY
REUNION WITH YOUR FATHER,
MELONIE!



WE'RE RUNNING INTO
RAPIDS! HANG ON
TIGHT, MELONIE!



JUMP, MELONIE!!

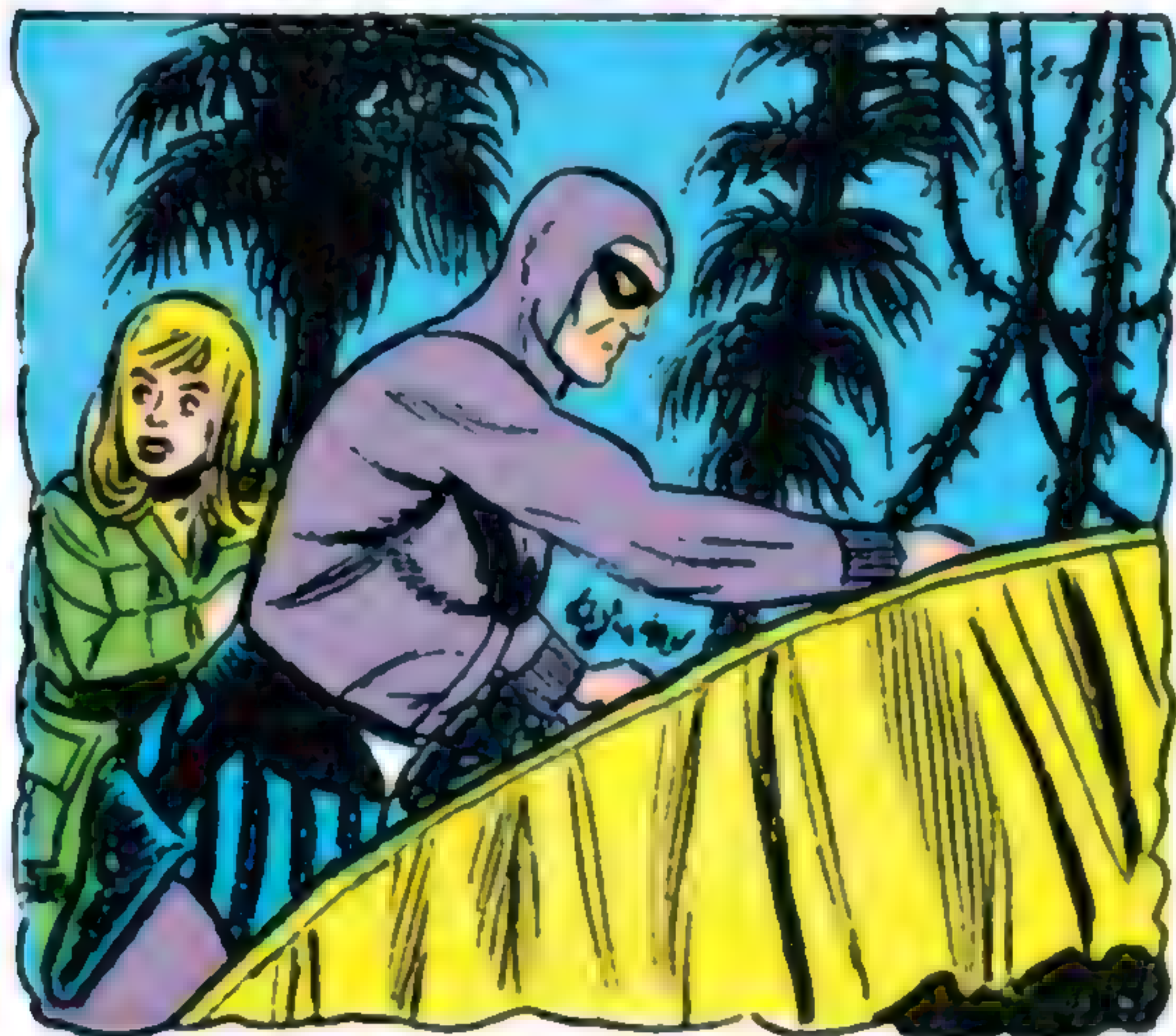


LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO GO
THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



YES, I'M
OKAY!

*WHILE MELONIE AND THE
PHANTOM MAKE THEIR WAY
THROUGH THE JUNGLE...*



*...KING SUROBI IS ORDERING HIS
SOLDIERS TO COMB THE TERRITORY
FOR THE KIDNAPPERS!*



*THE ARMY FANS OUT INTO THE JUNGLE ...
DETERMINED TO SEARCH EVERY SQUARE
INCH OF IT...*



THE NEXT DAY...





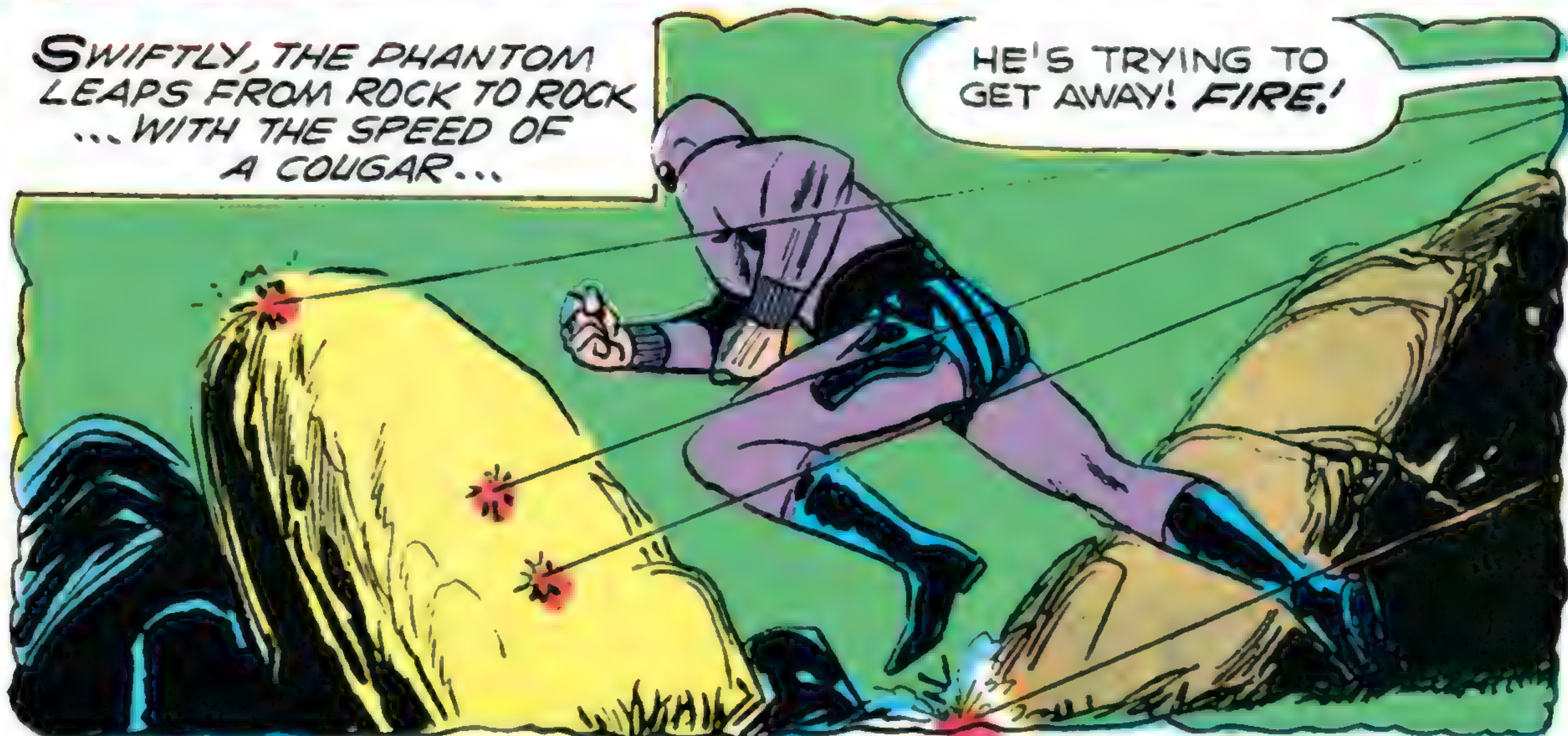
DOWN, MELONIE!



YOU *FOOL!* HOLD YOUR FIRE!
YOU MIGHT HIT THE GIRL!



YOUR FATHER'S TROOPS! THEY
THINK I'M ONE OF THE
KIDNAPPERS! STAY LOW,
MELONIE! I'LL DRAW THEIR
FIRE AWAY FROM YOU!



*SWIFTLY, THE PHANTOM
LEAPS FROM ROCK TO ROCK
... WITH THE SPEED OF
A COUGAR...*

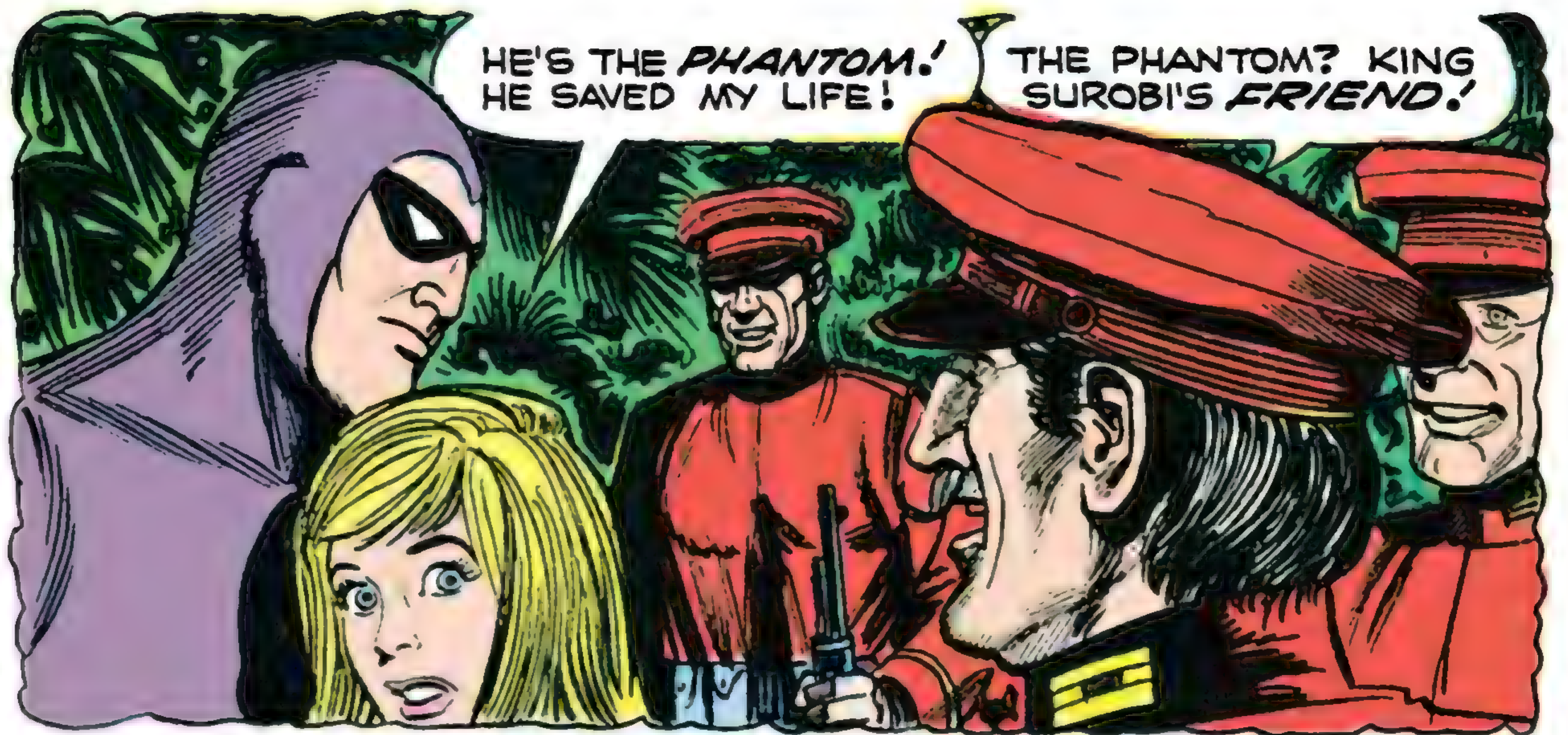
HE'S TRYING TO
GET AWAY! *FIRE!*

WITH KEEN JUNGLE INSTINCT,
THE PHANTOM WORKS HIS WAY
BEHIND THE SOLDIERS...



SUDDENLY...





HE'S THE *PHANTOM*!
HE SAVED MY LIFE!

THE PHANTOM? KING
SUROBI'S *FRIEND*!

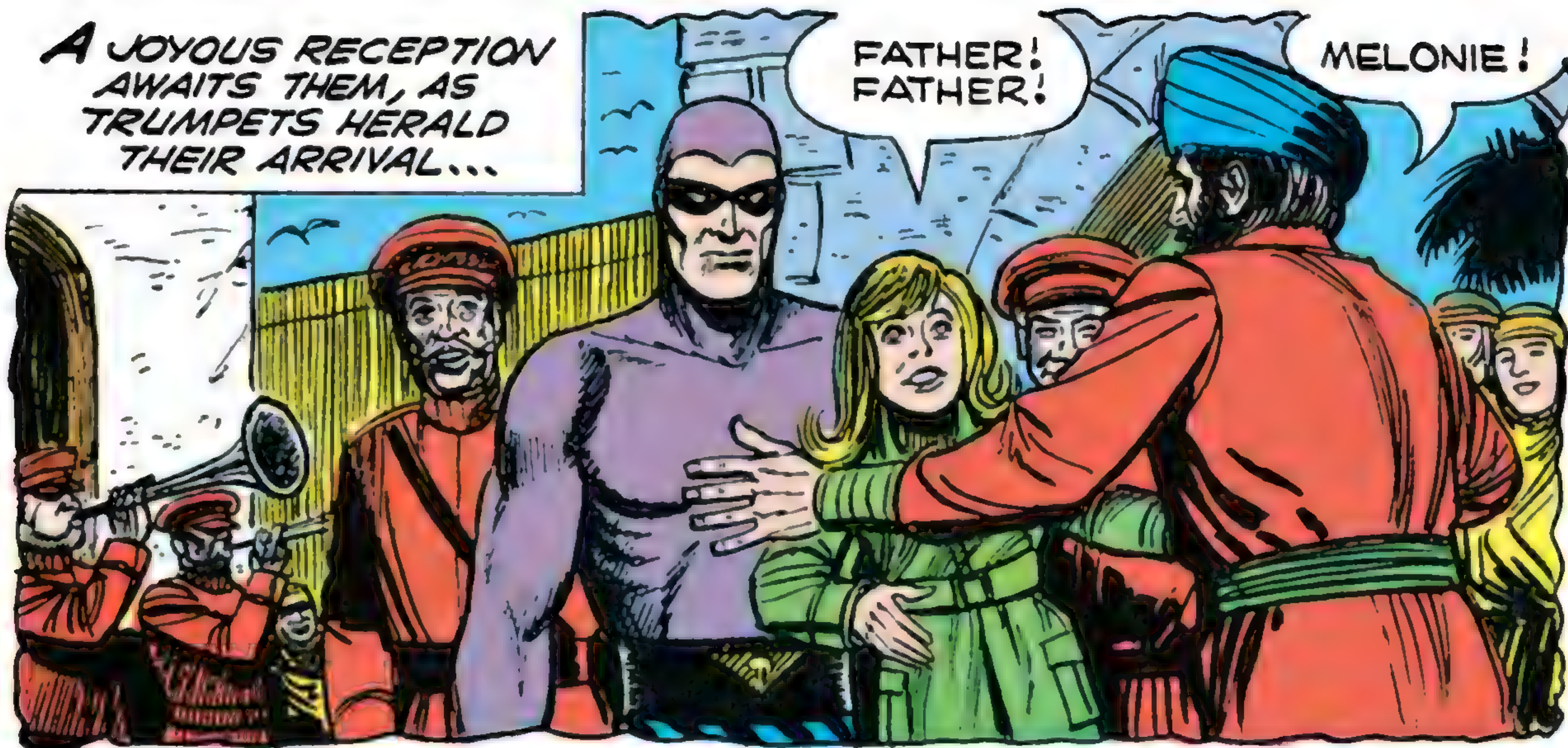
A DAY'S JOURNEY
LATER, THEY REACH
THE KINGDOM OF
KABORA...

HOME AT LAST,
MELONIE!

MY FATHER!
HE MUST BE SO
WORRIED!



A JOYOUS RECEPTION
AWAITS THEM, AS
TRUMPETS HERALD
THEIR ARRIVAL...



FATHER!
FATHER!

MELONIE!

THE PHANTOM! MY FRIEND!
ONCE YOU SAVED *MY* LIFE! NOW,
YOU HAVE SAVED MY DAUGHTER!
I MUST REWARD YOU! *ANY-
THING* I HAVE IS YOURS!



MY REWARD IS THE
HAPPINESS I SEE IN
YOUR FACE, KING
SUROBI!

BUT YOU MUST
ACCEPT *SOME*
GIFT!

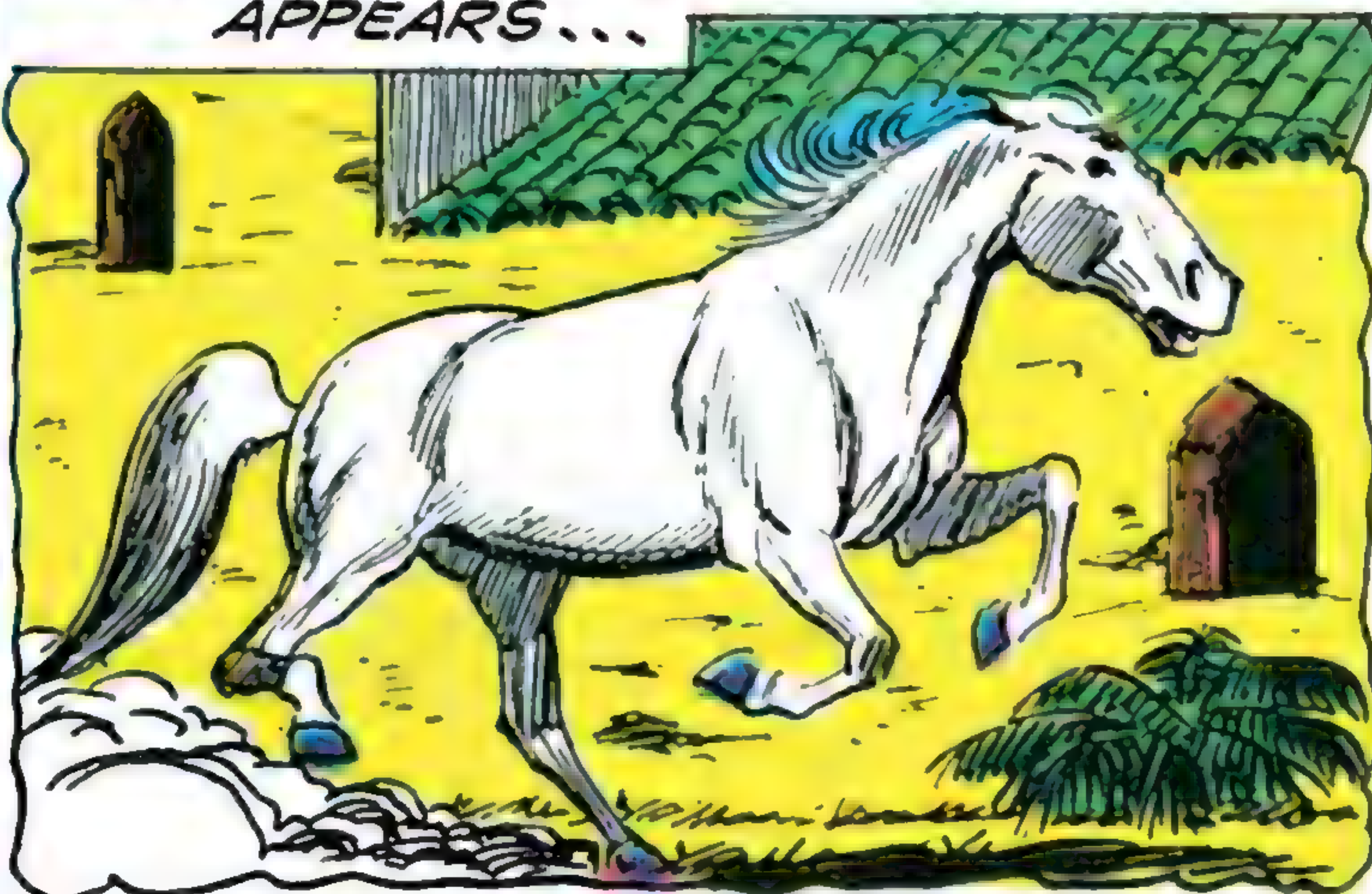
AAAHHHEEE!



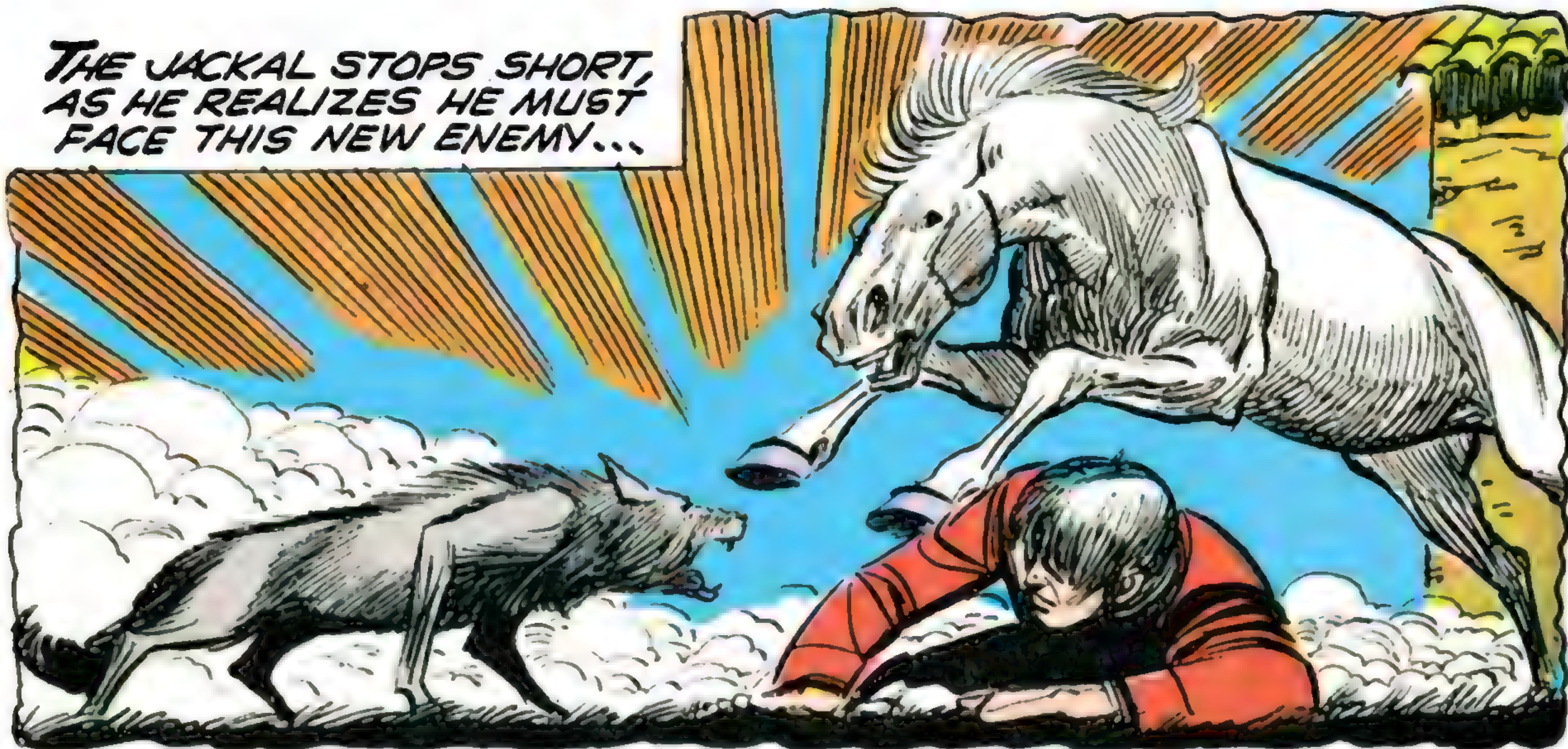
A JACKAL! IT'S
ATTACKING ONE OF
THE GUARDS!



SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM OUT OF THE
AIR... A MAJESTIC WHITE HORSE
APPEARS...



**THE JACKAL STOPS SHORT,
AS HE REALIZES HE MUST
FACE THIS NEW ENEMY...**



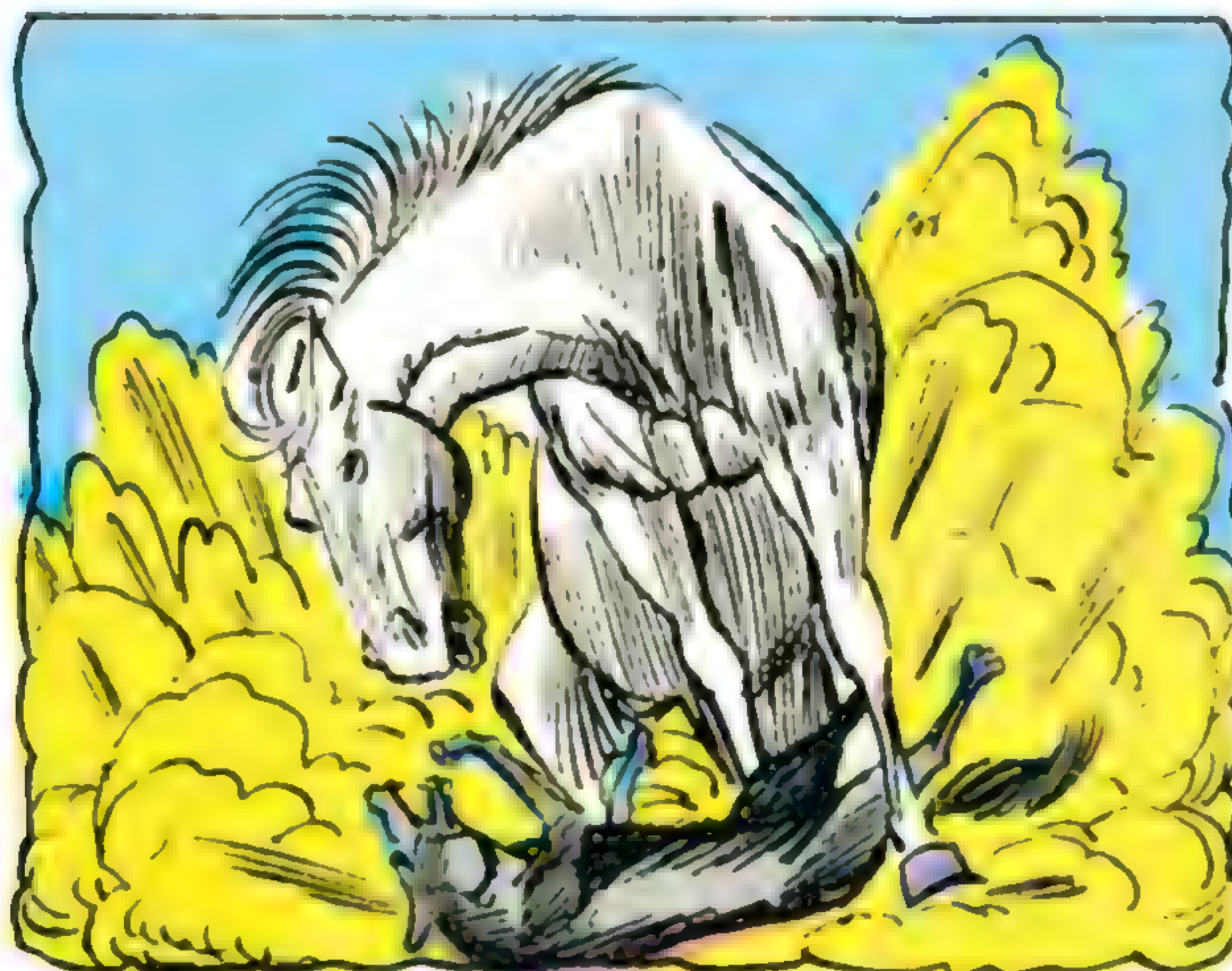
**HE LEAPS FOR THE
HORSE'S THROAT...**



... BUT, TOO LATE!



**THE JACKAL IS NO MATCH FOR
THE POWERFUL WHITE HORSE!**



**AFTER THE BATTLE IS WON,
THE WHITE HORSE GENTLY
NUDGES THE GUARD TO SEE
IF HE'S UNHURT!**





PART 2

The PHARAOH
PHANTOM

DEFEATED AND HUMILIATED
IN SOME INCREDIBLE FASHION
BY THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF
THE PHARAOH PHANTOM, THE
GHOST WHO WALKS GRIMLY
HEADS FOR A SHOWDOWN...

LOOK! THE
FALSE PHANTOM
IS STILL HERE!

HISS! BE GONE,
FRAUD-- THE TRUE
PHANTOM HAS COMMAND-
ED YOU TO LEAVE! HE
WILL SMASH YOUR
BONES!

AND
WHEN THE
PHARAOH
PHANTOM'S
FANTASTIC
TEMPLE IS
REACHED...

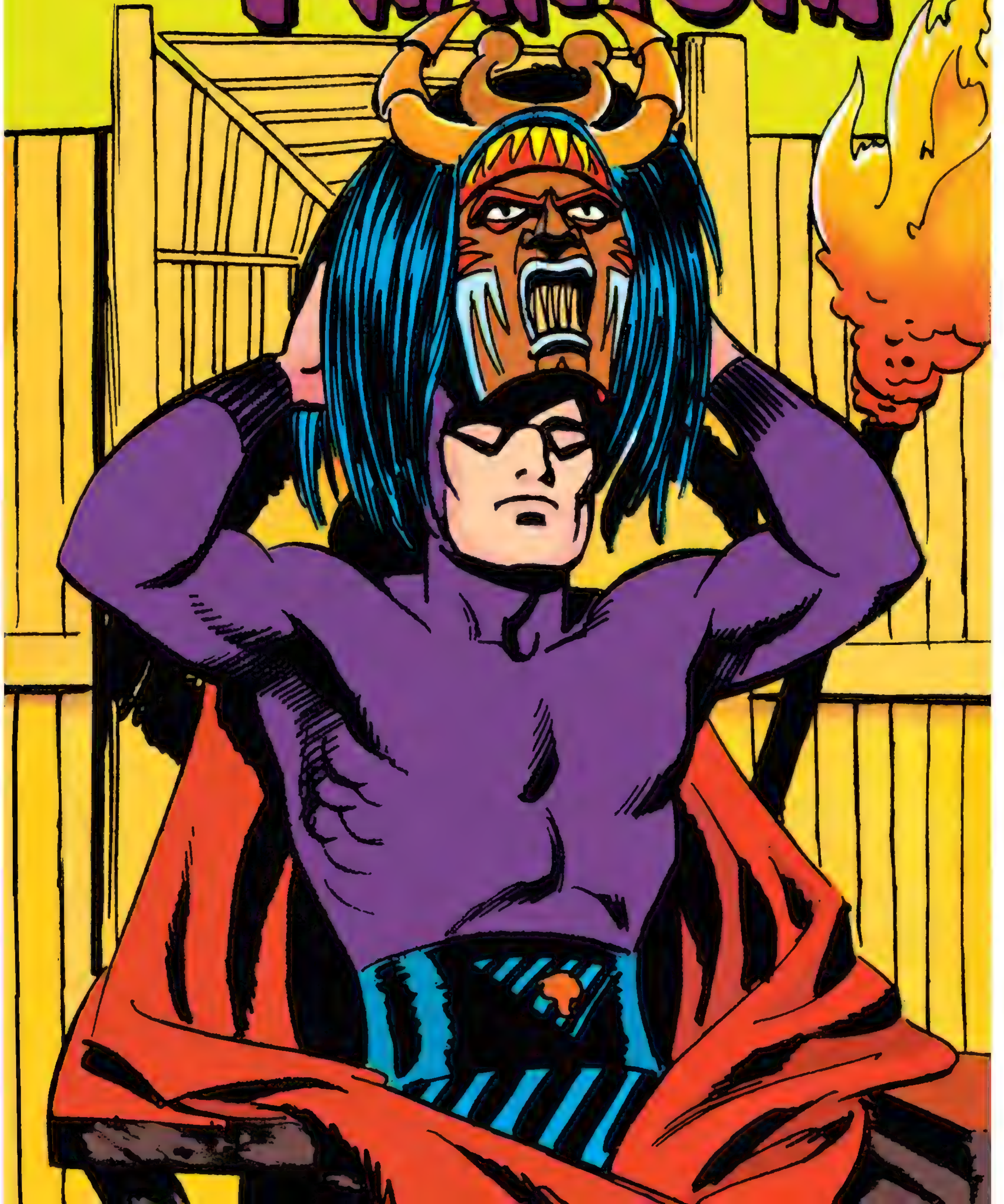
YOU MUST
HAVE FAITH IN ME, SPENCER!
OTHERWISE THIS CHARLATAN
CAN DESTROY THESE
DUPED PEOPLE!

I-I DO,
PHANTOM!

VERY WELL! NOW
DO EXACTLY AS I SAY...

Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in
Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.

THE PHANTOM



THE
PHANTOM

DIANA'S DEADLY TOUR



HOLD YOUR FIRE!
THE BOMB HAS
DONE THE TRICK...
THAT EXPLOSION
WOULD KILL AN
ELEPHANT!

IT WAS TO BE A WORLD-WIDE ATHLETIC EXHIBITION — AND THE FAMOUS DIANA PALMER WAS TO MAKE THE TOUR FOR CHARITY. BUT ENEMY AGENTS HAD OTHER IDEAS IN MIND FOR THE WEALTHY BEAUTY WHO HAD LONG SOUGHT TO WIN THE PHANTOM'S HEART... AND BEFORE DIANA'S TOUR WAS FINISHED, THE GHOST WHO WALKS HIMSELF WAS MARKED FOR MURDER!

PH-PHANTOM!

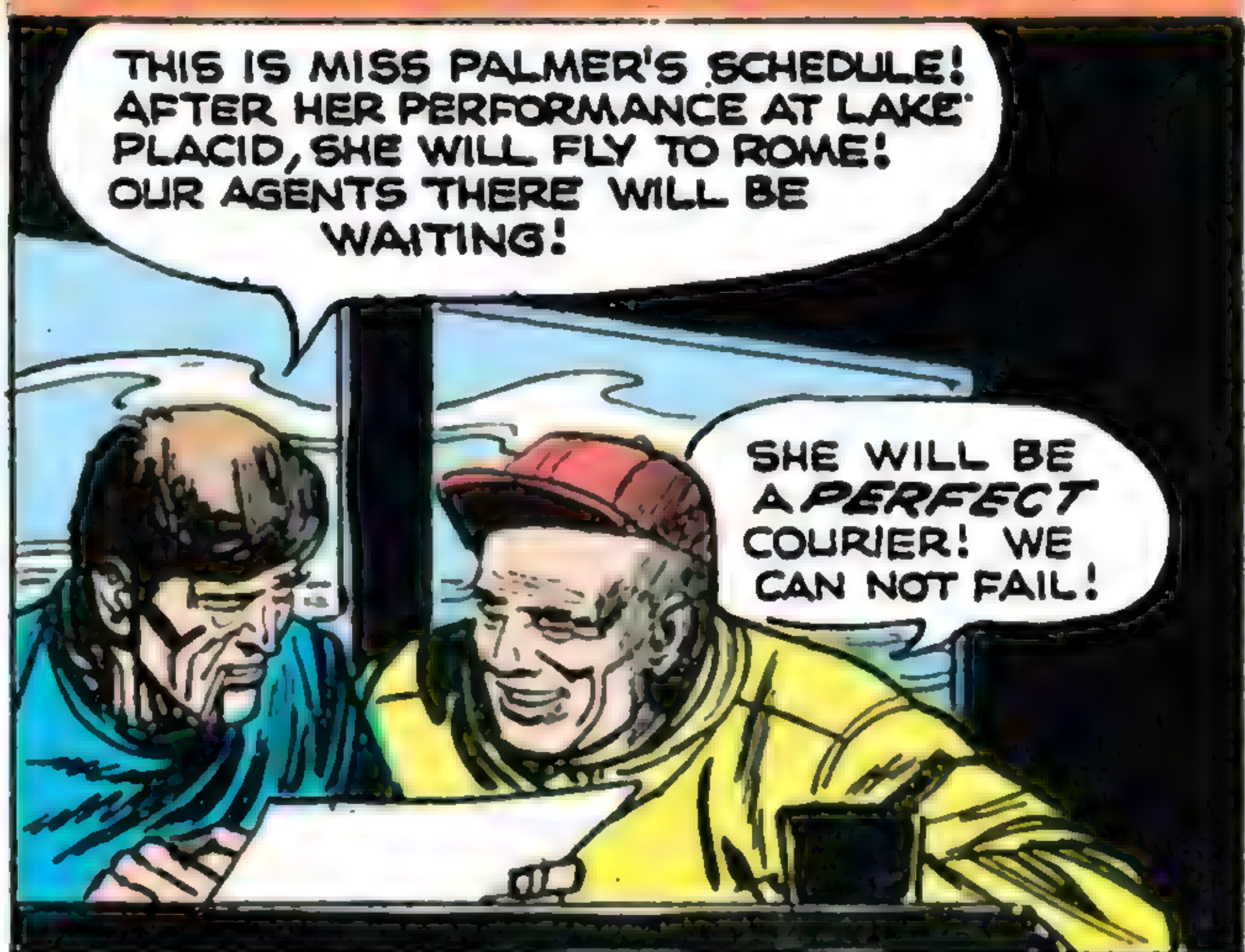
IN NEW YORK CITY, A PRESS CONFERENCE IS HELD BY DIANA PALMER, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS GIRL ATHLETE...



IT'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO ALL MY LIFE! I'LL TRAVEL TO ITALY, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND... AS FOR THE PHANTOM—WELL, GENTLEMEN, I *HOPES* I WILL SEE HIM ENROUTE!



AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, ON A RESORT TRAIN HEADING FOR UPSTATE NEW YORK...



BUT THE PHANTOM HAS MANY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD...



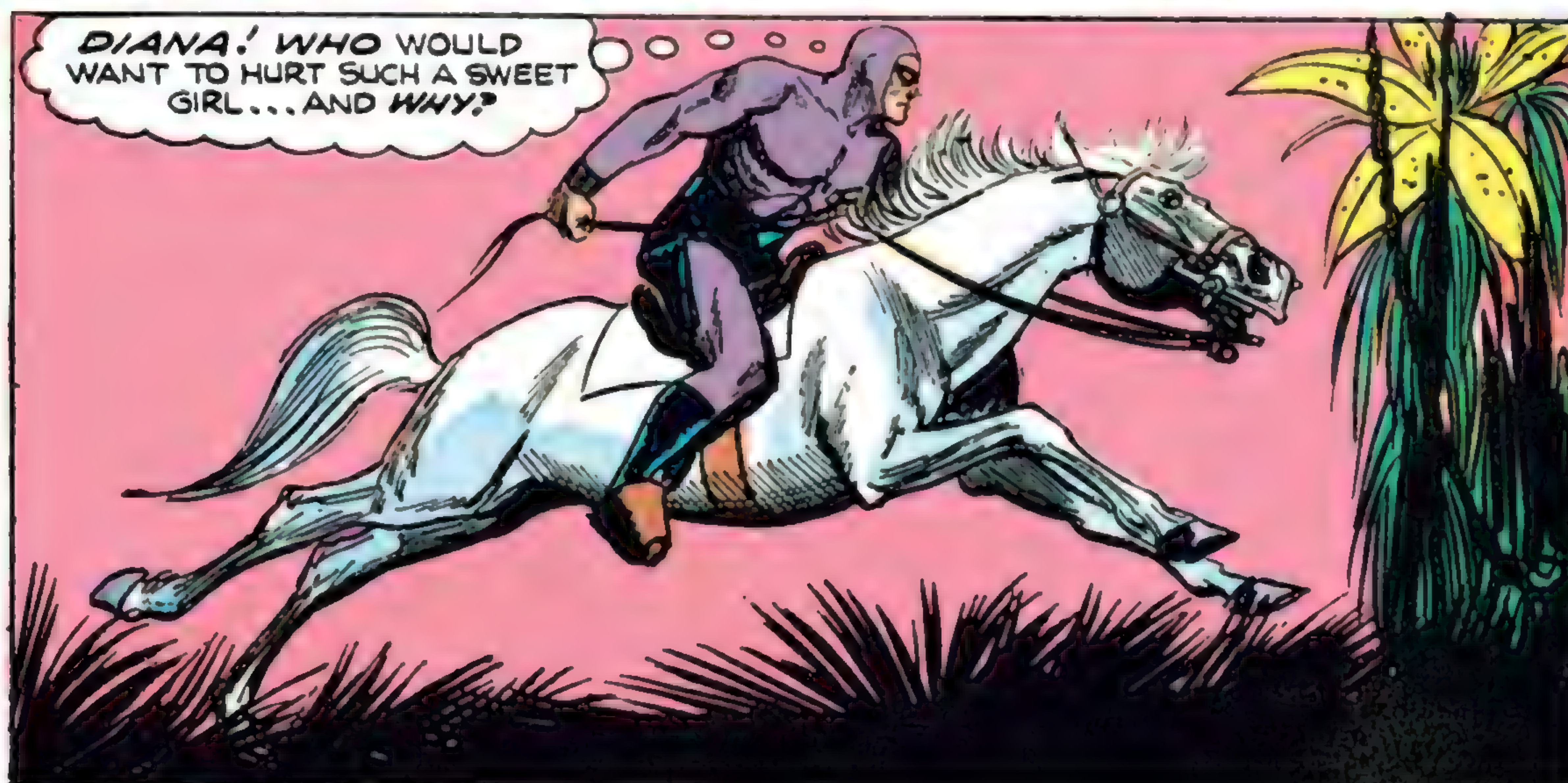
AT THE NEXT STOP...



THE NEWS TRAVELS QUICKLY...
ACROSS THE SEAS BY RADIO...TO A
BENGALI VILLAGE BY TELEGRAPH...
AND THROUGH JUNGLE TRAILS BY THE
FAMOUS MONKEY MAIL...



FINALLY, IT REACHES THE DEEP WOODS...
HOME OF THE PHANTOM...



MOVING SWIFTLY, THE GHOST WHO WALKS
HEADS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND THE
LOVELY DIANA...



SOON AFTER, AT LAKE PLACID...



MEANWHILE, IN DIANA'S
DRESSING ROOM...



HURRY— HIDE THE
MICROFILM IN THE
RUBBER RUNNER
GUARD THAT
PROTECTS HER
EXTRA SKATES!

FIRST PHASE COMPLETE!
THE FAMOUS DIANA PALMER
WILL NOW WORK FOR *US*!
HA! HA! LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

BUT THEN...



I MUSTN'T FRIGHTEN
DIANA BY EXPLAINING
SHE'S IN DANGER...
I'LL JUST...

WHA...? THOSE
TWO CHARACTERS
JUST CAME OUT OF
HER DRESSING
ROOM...



IT'S TH-THE
PHANTOM!!



ALL RIGHT, YOU BABOONS...
JUST WHAT'S THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN YOU AND
DIANA PALMER?

H-HOLD HIM OFF!
I-I'LL GET HELP!



NEXT DAY, A HAPPY DIANA SITS BESIDE THE PHANTOM ON THE PLANE TO PARIS...



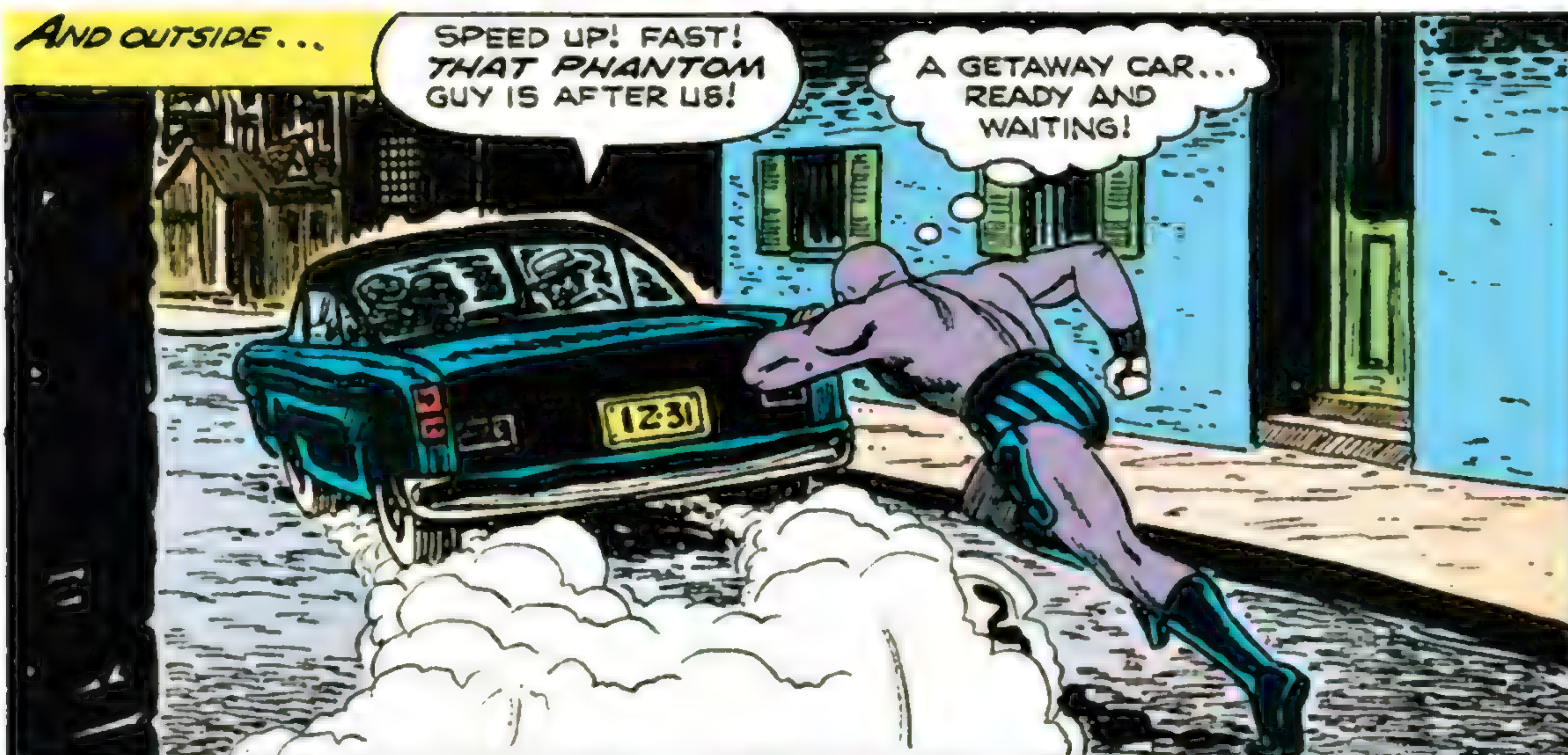
SUDDENLY, AS DIANA HEADS DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO HER DRESSING ROOM...



GO INSIDE AND SHUT THE DOOR! HURRY, DIANA! DO AS I SAY!



AND OUTSIDE...



HOPE THEY DIDN'T SPOT ME... ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS SCHEME... STICK WITH THEM...

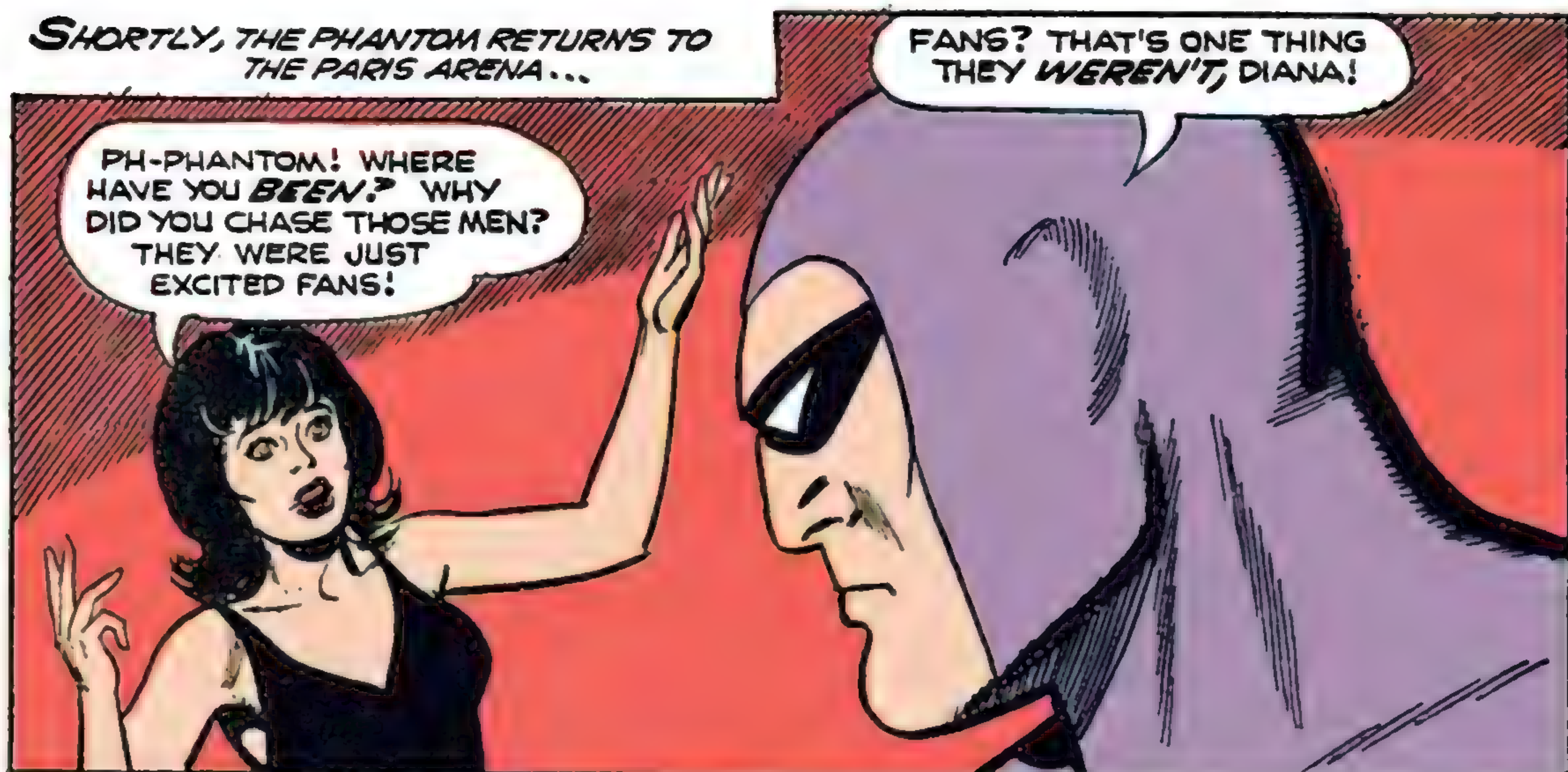


BUT THE PHANTOM'S HOPES ARE SOON DASHED AS...





SHORTLY, THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE PARIS ARENA...



NEXT MORNING, AS DIANA AND THE PHANTOM EMBARK FOR ITALY...



THE FOLLOWING DAY, ON THE SLOPES OF THE FAMOUS SKI RESORT AFTER DIANA HAS PERFORMED...



WHILE NEARBY...



LATER...

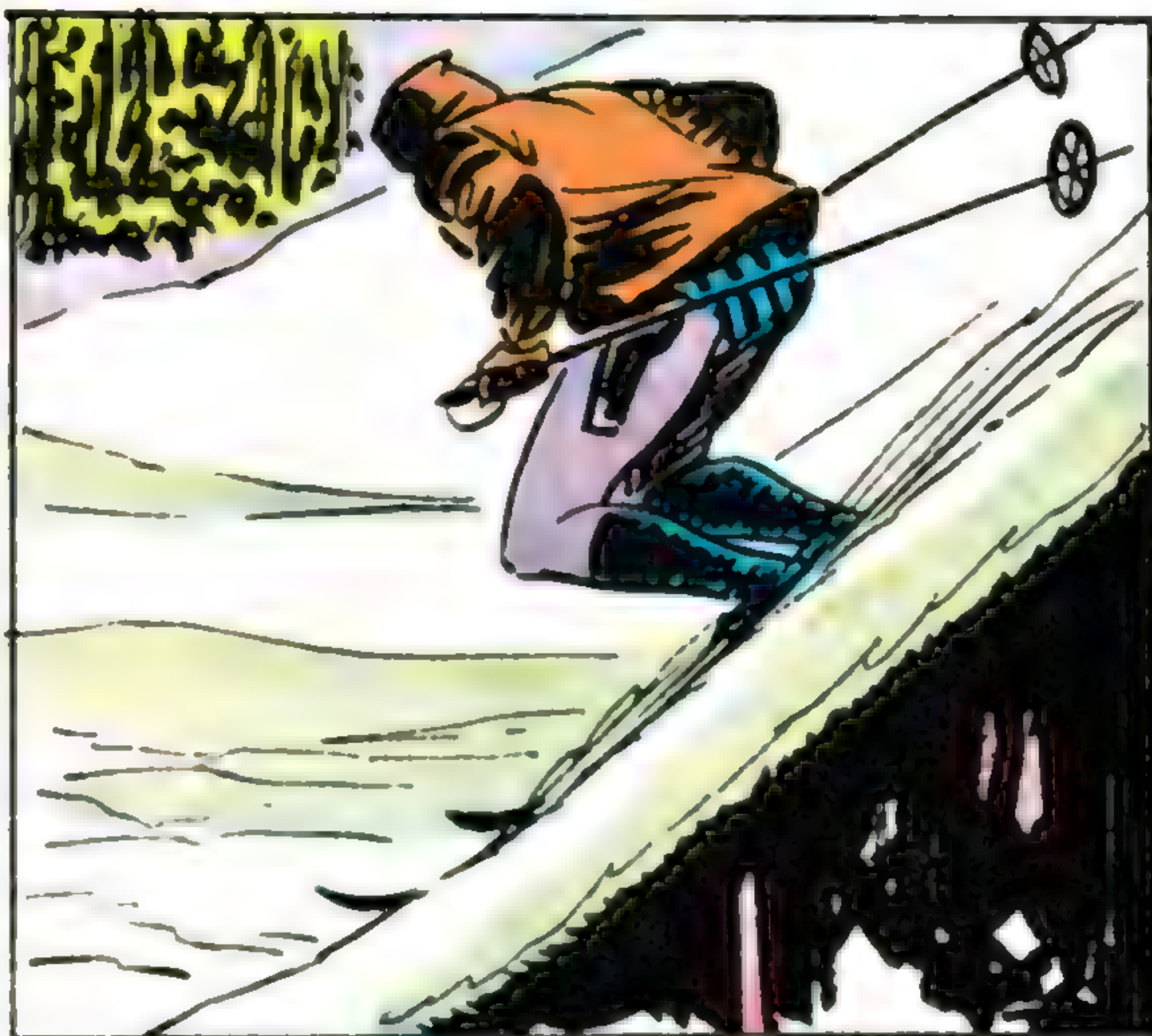


AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER...





DOWN...DOWN THE PHANTOM PLUNGES TOWARD HIDDEN DEATH...



SUDDENLY, THE CENTER OF THE SLOPE ERUPTS AND...



THE PHANTOM'S BODY PLUMMETS DOWNWARD...INTO A CLUMP OF TREES...



BUT WHEN DIANA REACHES THE SCENE...



IN HER LODGE THAT NIGHT, DIANA SOBS OUT HER HEART...



WELL, I'M THROUGH... FINISHED! I WON'T GO ON! THE TOUR IS FINISHED! I'LL ~~NEVER~~ PERFORM AGAIN!



SUDDENLY, A VOICE SEEMS TO SOUND IN DIANA'S EARS...



YOU MUST... CONTINUE TO HELP THE POOR OF THE WORLD... IN MY NAME... PLEASE... DIANA...



YES... YES, OF COURSE, I MUST GO ON FOR HIM! HE WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY!



TWO DAYS LATER... SWITZERLAND...

OUR MISSION IS ALMOST COMPLETE! WHEN SHE HAS FINISHED WE WILL COLLECT THE VITAL MICROFILMS... AND DESTROY HER!



LATER, WHEN DIANA HAS COMPLETED
HER PERFORMANCE...



BUT BEFORE THE GIRL
REACHES THE ROOM...



A BLUR OF COLOR FLASHES BEFORE
THE WOULD-BE KILLERS' EYES AND...



WHEN DIANA ARRIVES, SHE GETS THE
SURPRISE OF HER LIFE...



PHANTOM!
B-BUT HOW?
I-IS IT
REALLY YOU?
A-AM I
DREAMING?



YOU'RE *NOT* DREAMING,
HONEY! PICK UP THAT SKI
POLE OVER THERE AND
I'LL SHOW YOU *WHY*!

**THE GHOST WHO WALKS
CRACKS THE POLE...**

JUST AS I THOUGHT... WHEN YOU MENTIONED YOUR STOLEN BATHING CAP, AND I SAW THEM CARRYING OFF THIS SKI-POLE... MICROFILM!

MICROFILM! B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PHANTOM! I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING! YOU... ALIVE... THIS THREAT TO MY LIFE!

DIANA... I HAD TO FACE DEATH TO TRAP THESE CHARACTERS AND LEARN WHAT WAS UP! YOU'VE BEEN USED AS A COURIER TO SMUGGLE VITAL SECRETS OF SOME SORT, DIANA...

AT EACH ONE OF YOUR PERFORMANCES, PIECES OF THE MICROFILM WERE PLACED IN YOUR GEAR FOR YOU TO CARRY ACROSS THE NEXT BORDER!

THE CONTENTS OF THIS FILM WILL TELL THE WHOLE STORY, HONEY!

AND LATER...

SACRE BLEU! BLUEPRINTS OF A TOP-SECRET SUPERSONIC BOMBER! ZE AGENTS IN EACH NATION HAD A SECTION OF IT!

YES... AND WHEN JOINED TOGETHER AND CARRIED TO GENEVA BY DIANA THEY FORMED THE **COMPLETE** BLUEPRINT!

PHANTOM... I-I THOUGHT YOU CAME WITH ME ON THE TOUR FOR ANOTHER REASON!

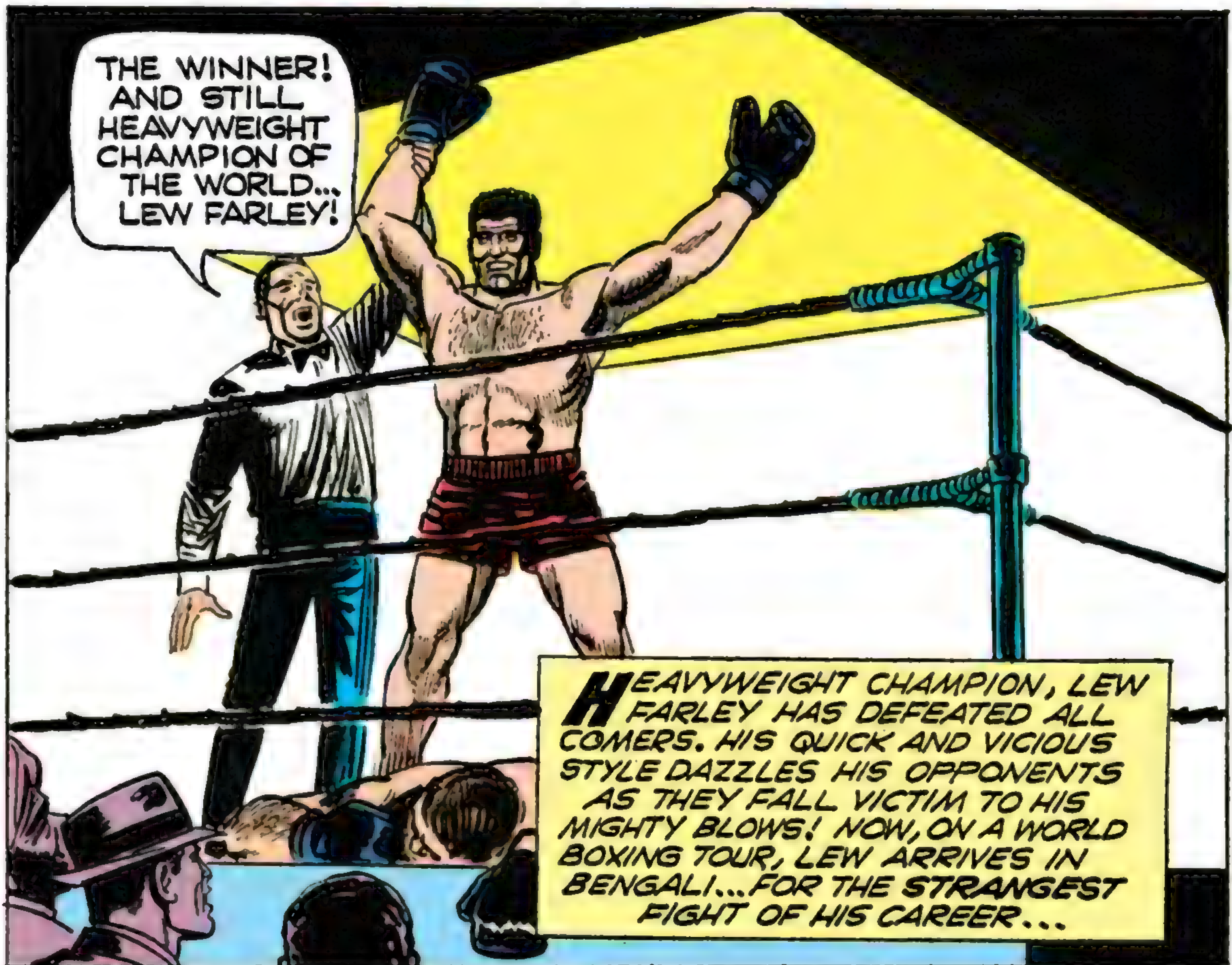
ANOTHER REASON?

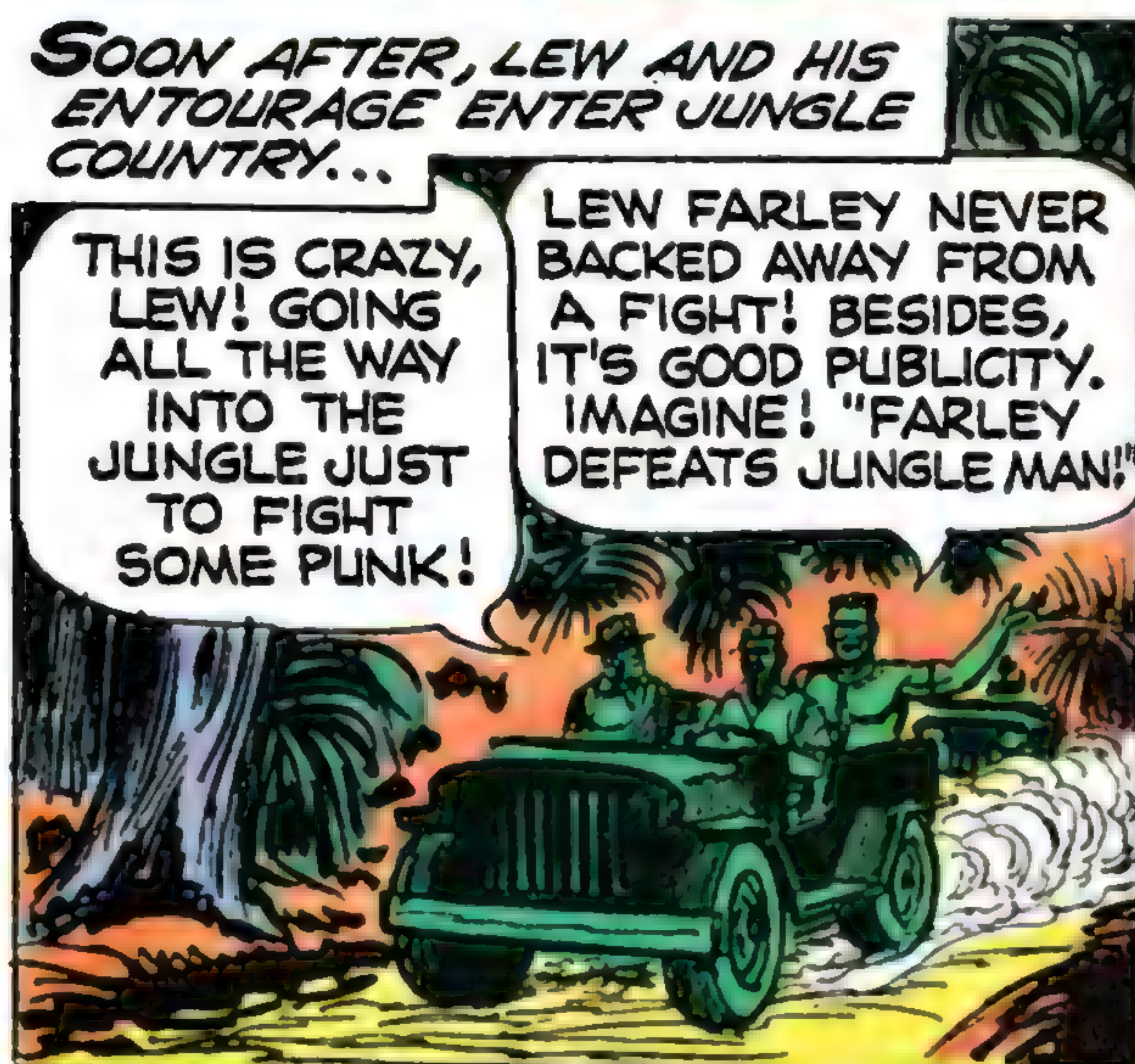
OH, NEVER MIND... IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER!

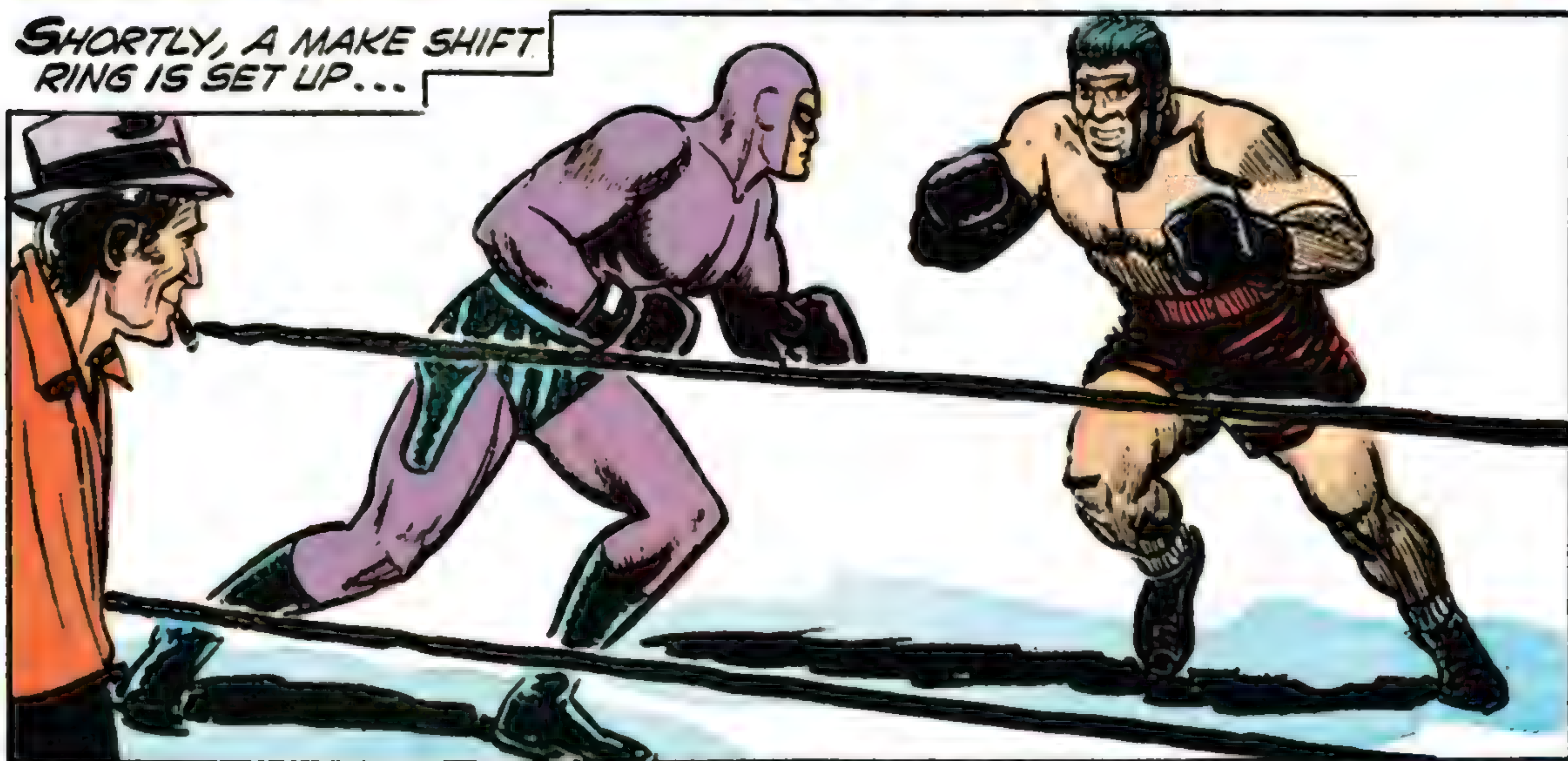
A GIRL CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING! WHAT MORE CAN SHE ASK THAT THE PHANTOM SAVE HER LIFE... AND, ONE DAY SHE MAY **STILL** WIN HIS LOVE!

THE PHANTOM

The **BIG FIGHT**

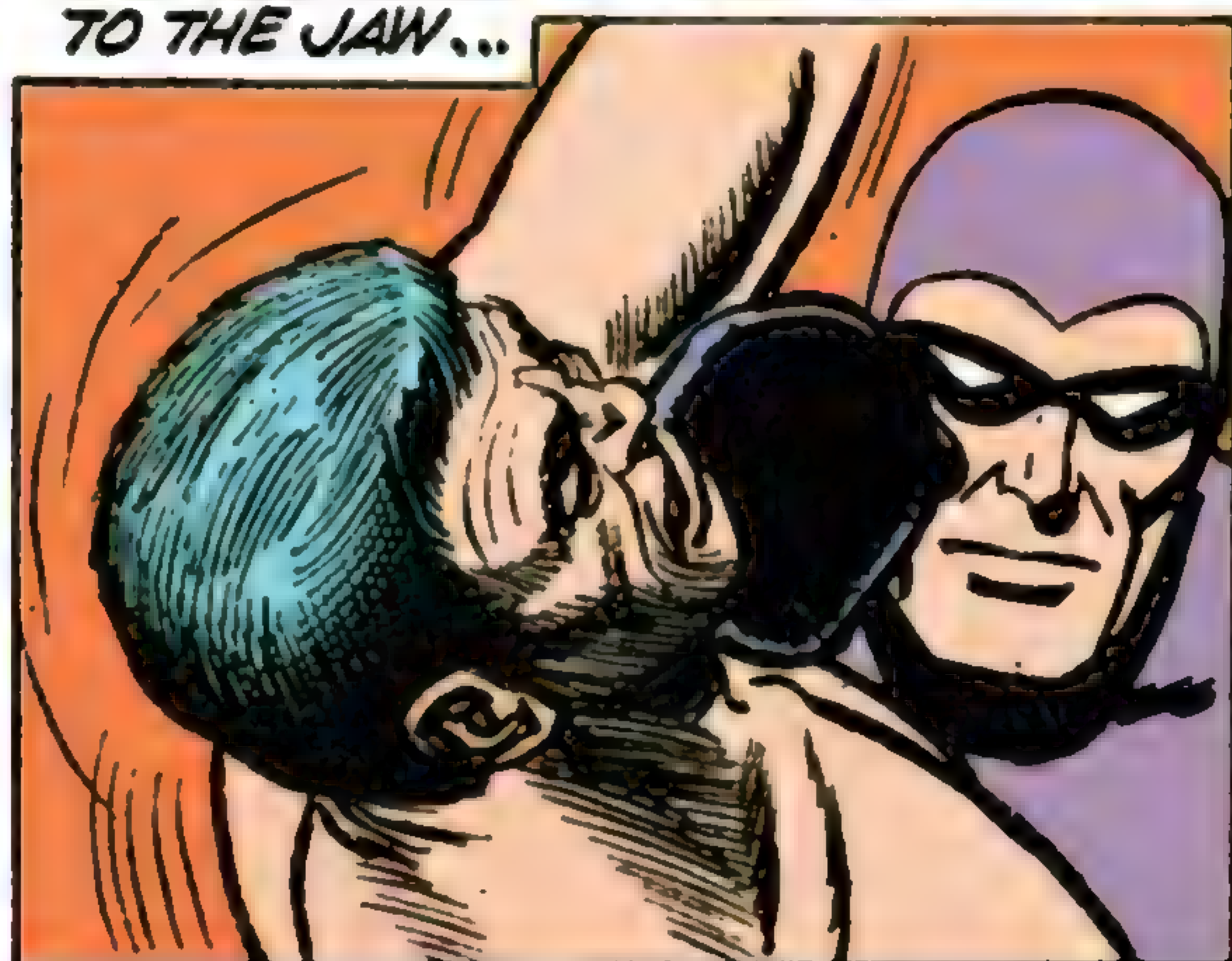






LEW SWINGS WITH LIGHTENING SPEED, BUT THE JUNGLE INSTINCTS OF THE PHANTOM ARE MUCH FASTER...

BEFORE THE ARROGANT CHAMP CAN REGAIN HIS FOOTING, THE PHANTOM SWIFTLY COMES OUT OF HIS CROUCH AND DELIVERS A POWERFUL BLOW TO THE JAW...



STUNNED, THE CHAMP SWINGS WILDLY AT THE ELLUSIVE PHANTOM...



A STRANGE QUIET ENVELOPES THE JUNGLE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE SOUND OF THE PHANTOM'S POWERFUL BLOWS!



"THE EARTH QUAKES, WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY"... OLD JUNGLE SAYING...



HEY! THAT WAS **TERRIFIC!** HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SIGN UP WITH ME? WE COULD MAKE A **MILLION!**

NO THANKS! MY PLACE IS HERE ... TELL YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TO **DESTROY** THEIR FILM! THIS MUST REMAIN OUR **SECRET!**



THANK YOU, PHANTOM!

THIS WASN'T A TITLE BOUT, LEW! YOU'RE STILL THE CHAMP! PERHAPS, **NOW** YOU CAN WEAR THAT TITLE WITH A LITTLE MORE **HUMILITY!** GOOD LUCK!



THE PHANTOM

BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-

SOS PHANTOM

IN ALL PARTS OF THE JUNGLE, NATIVES KNOW THAT WHEN THEY NEED HIS HELP, *THE PHANTOM* WILL COME. SOMETIMES THEIR CALLS FOR HIS HELP COME IN THE BEAT OF A JUNGLE DRUM...

THE DRUMS ARE CALLING US, DEVIL!

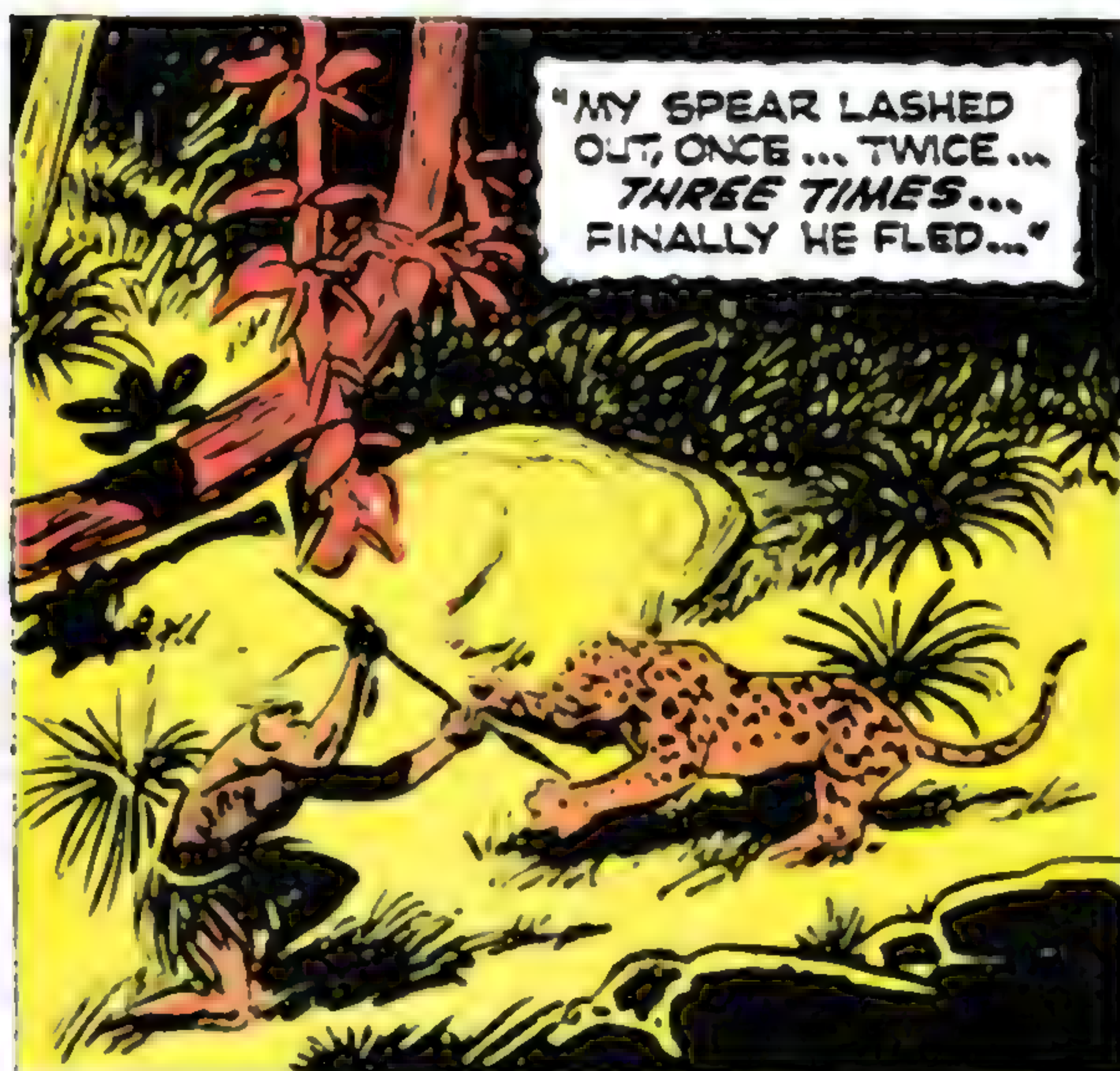
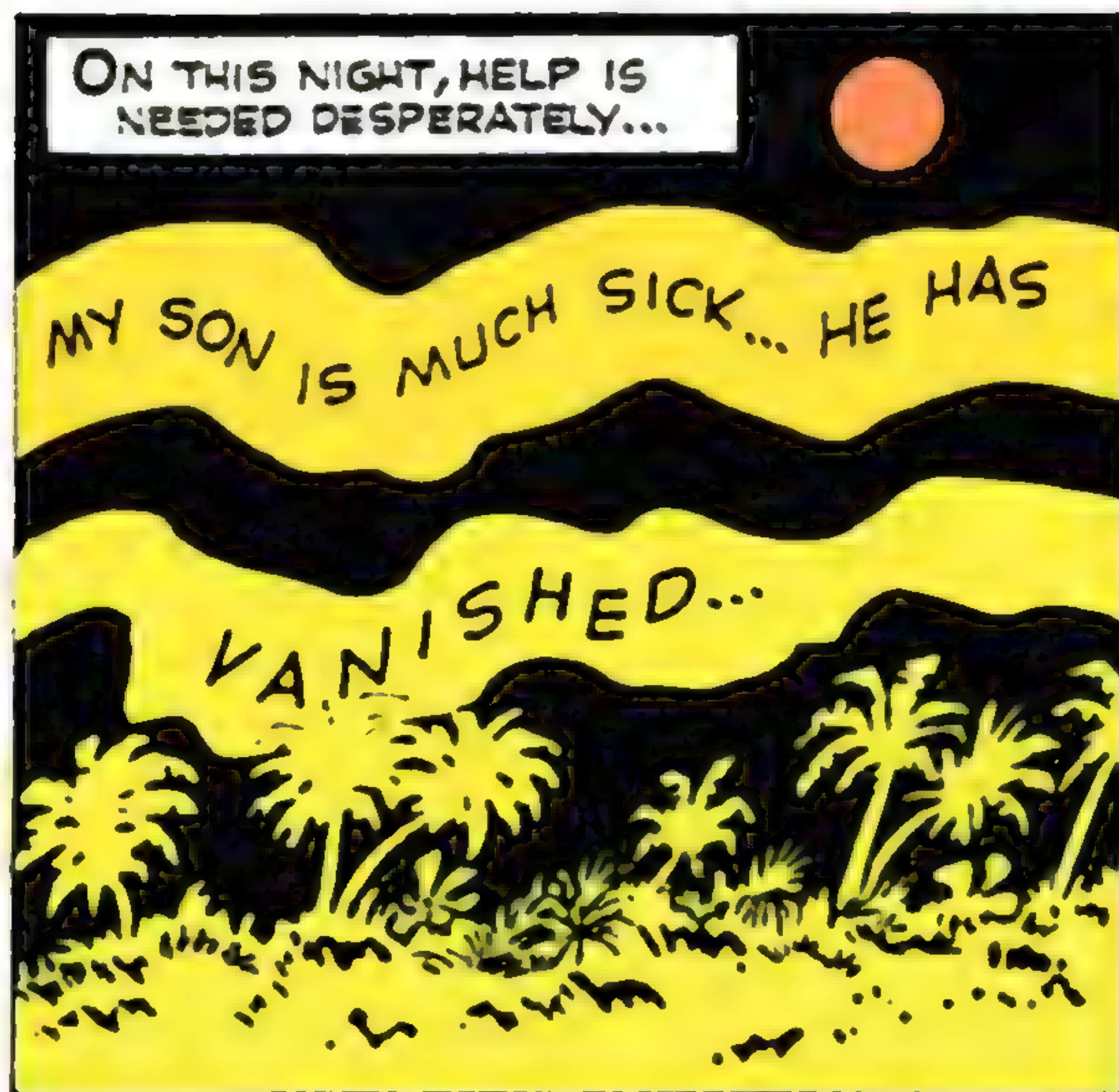


FAR AWAY, DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, A SPECIAL DRUM HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM A HOLLOW TREE TRUNK...

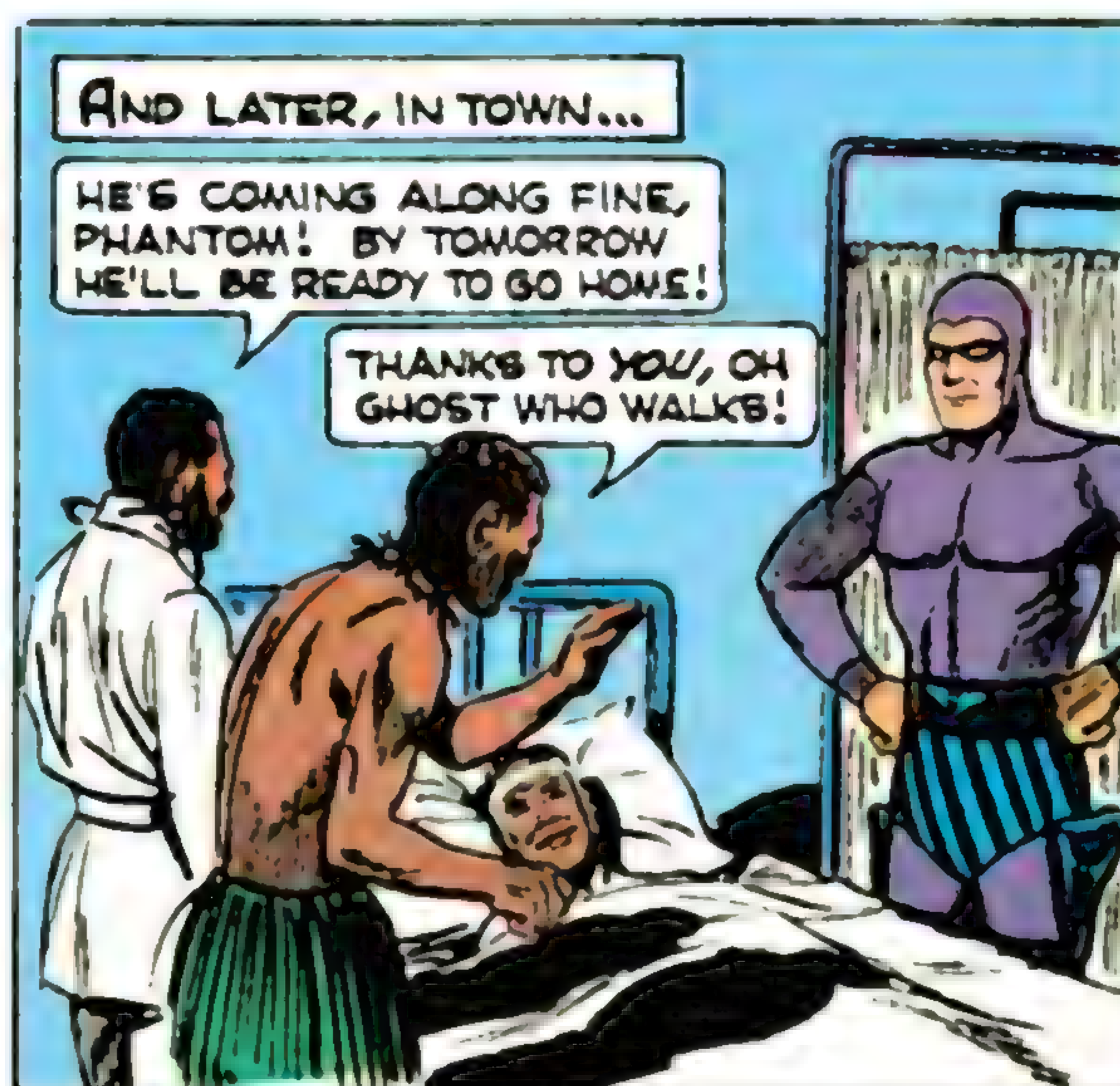


THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE, THERE ARE DOZENS OF SUCH HIDDEN DRUMS...TO BE USED ONLY FOR CONTACTING *THE PHANTOM*...









SOS PHANTOM The PIRATE RAIDERS

OH, GHOST WHO WALKS...BAD MEN FROM
SEA...ATTACK OUR VILLAGE...
BOOM-BOOM-

THROUGHOUT THE BENGALI JUNGLE, A HUNDRED SECRET DRUMS ARE PLANTED... WHEN TROUBLE STRIKES, THE NATIVES KNOW THEIR CALL FOR HELP WILL TRAVEL SWIFTLY... TO THE SKULL CAVE AND THE PHANTOM...

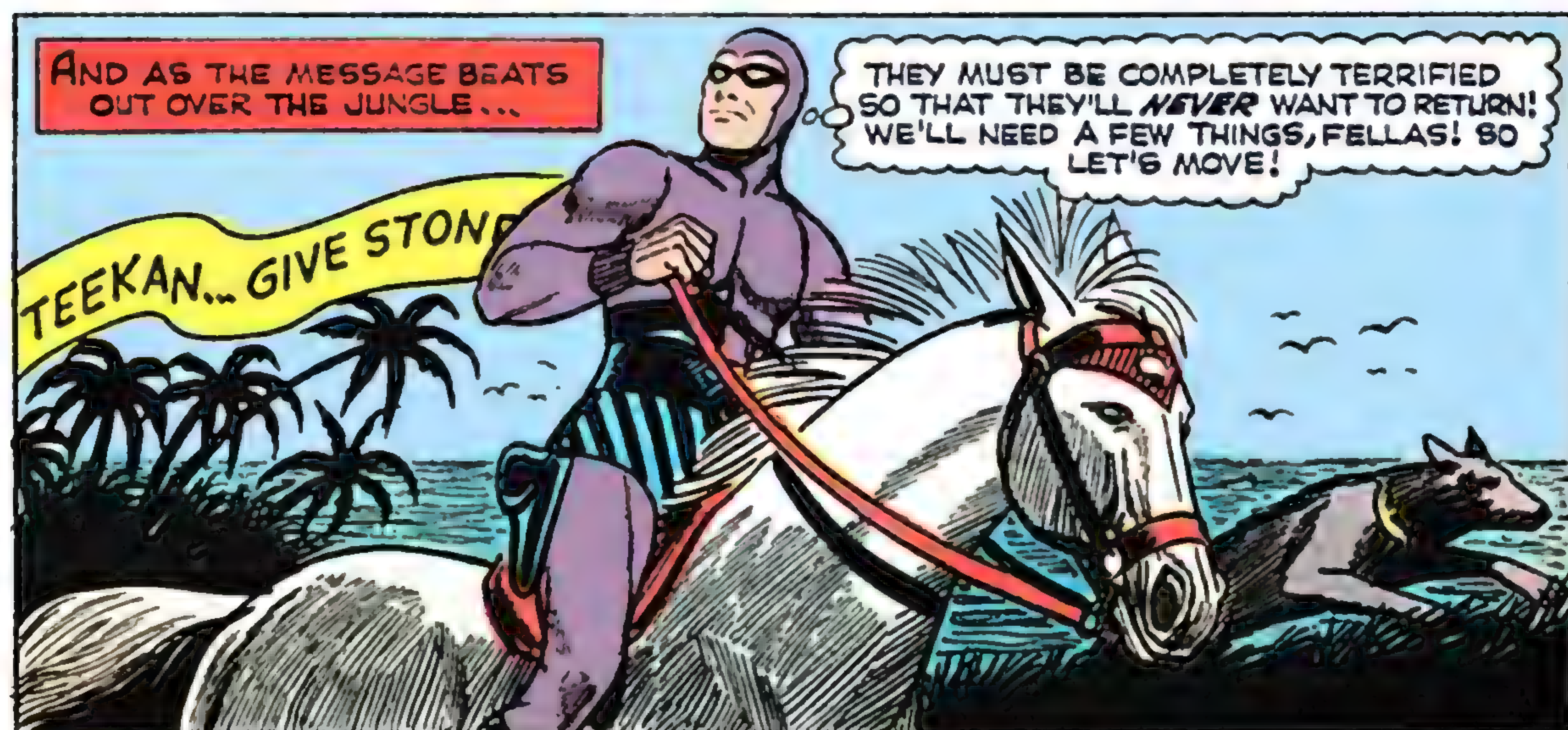
PIRATES!
RAIDING THE
WAMBESI!

THE GHOST WHO WALKS FOLLOWS
THE DRUM BEATS...

STRANGE THAT PIRATES WOULD
BOTHR THE WAMBESI COAST VILLAGE...
THEY HAVE NOTHING OF VALUE THERE!

...AND AT THE TROUBLE SPOT...

IT HAPPENED JUST A SUN'S SHADOW
AGO, PHANTOM! TEEKAN, OF MY VILLAGE,
HAD FOUND A SHINING STONE IN THE
STREAM...







The PHANTOM

THE MYSTIC STRANGER HAD WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A FOOLPROOF PLAN FOR CONTROL OF THE WHOLE BENGALI JUNGLE! FOR THE DEVOTED NATIVES WOULD HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN *THE PHANTOM* COULD NOT ESCAPE . . .

The MAGIC IVORY CAGE

AH!
BUT THEY
DID NOT
HAVE *MY*
MYSTIC
WISDOM,
POTTER!

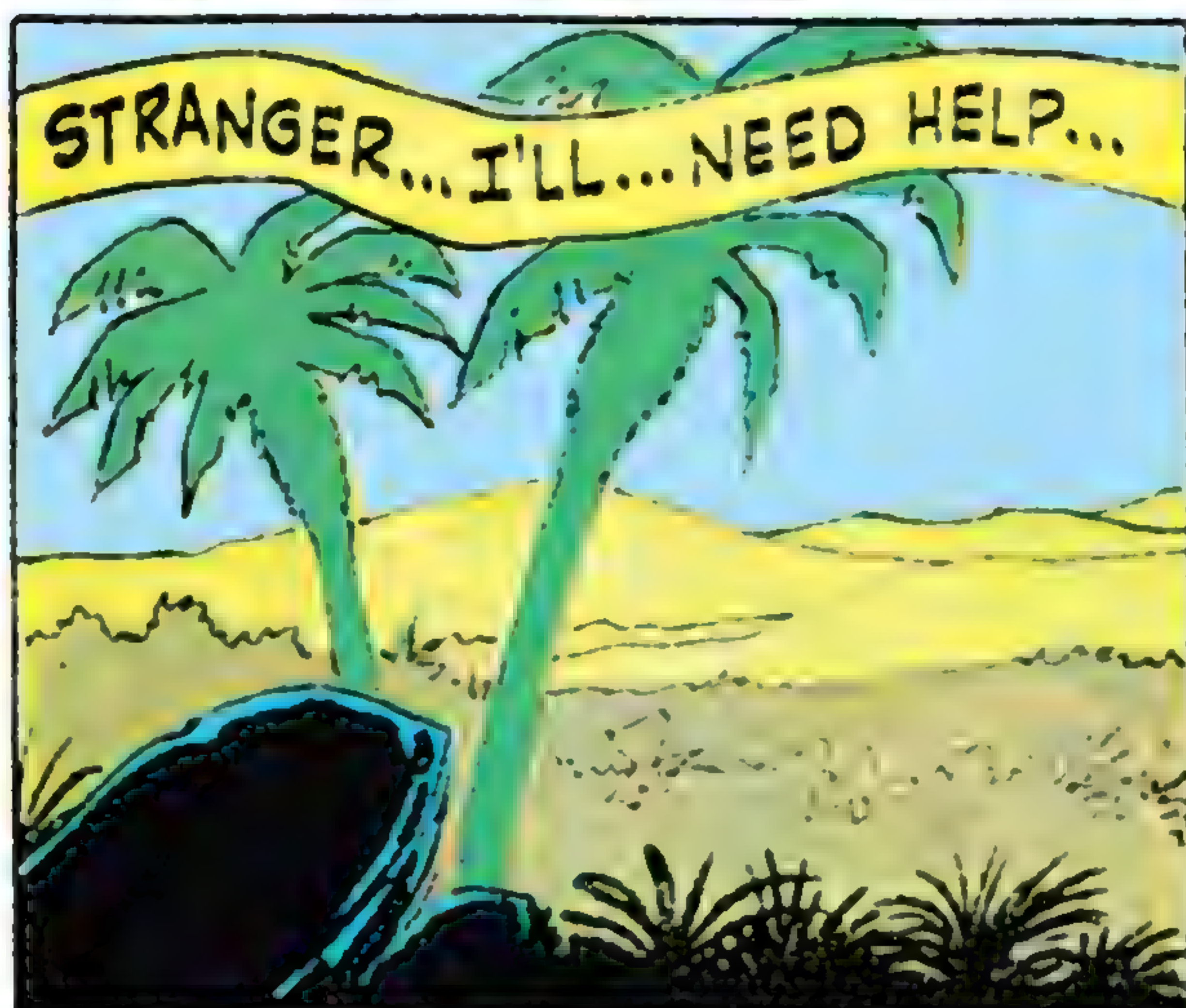
YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL
WORK, SAMBANI?... A LOT
OF CLEVER CHARACTERS
HAVE FAILED TO FOOL
THE PHANTOM!

THE PHANTOM PUT THE SOS DRUM
HERE TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE!
WE'LL USE IT TO
MAKE TROUBLE!

DARDO, HERE, IS
VERY DEVOTED TO
THE PHANTOM ...
BUT HE HAS *GOOD*
REASON FOR
DOING WHAT
I SAY...

YOU WILL BEGIN
WHEN I GIVE
THE SIGNAL!

SOON AFTER, AN EERIE DRUM BEAT
THROBS OVER THE JUNGLE FOLIAGE...



...FINALLY, IT REACHES THE DEEP WOODS...
AND THE LEGENDARY *SKULL THRONE*...



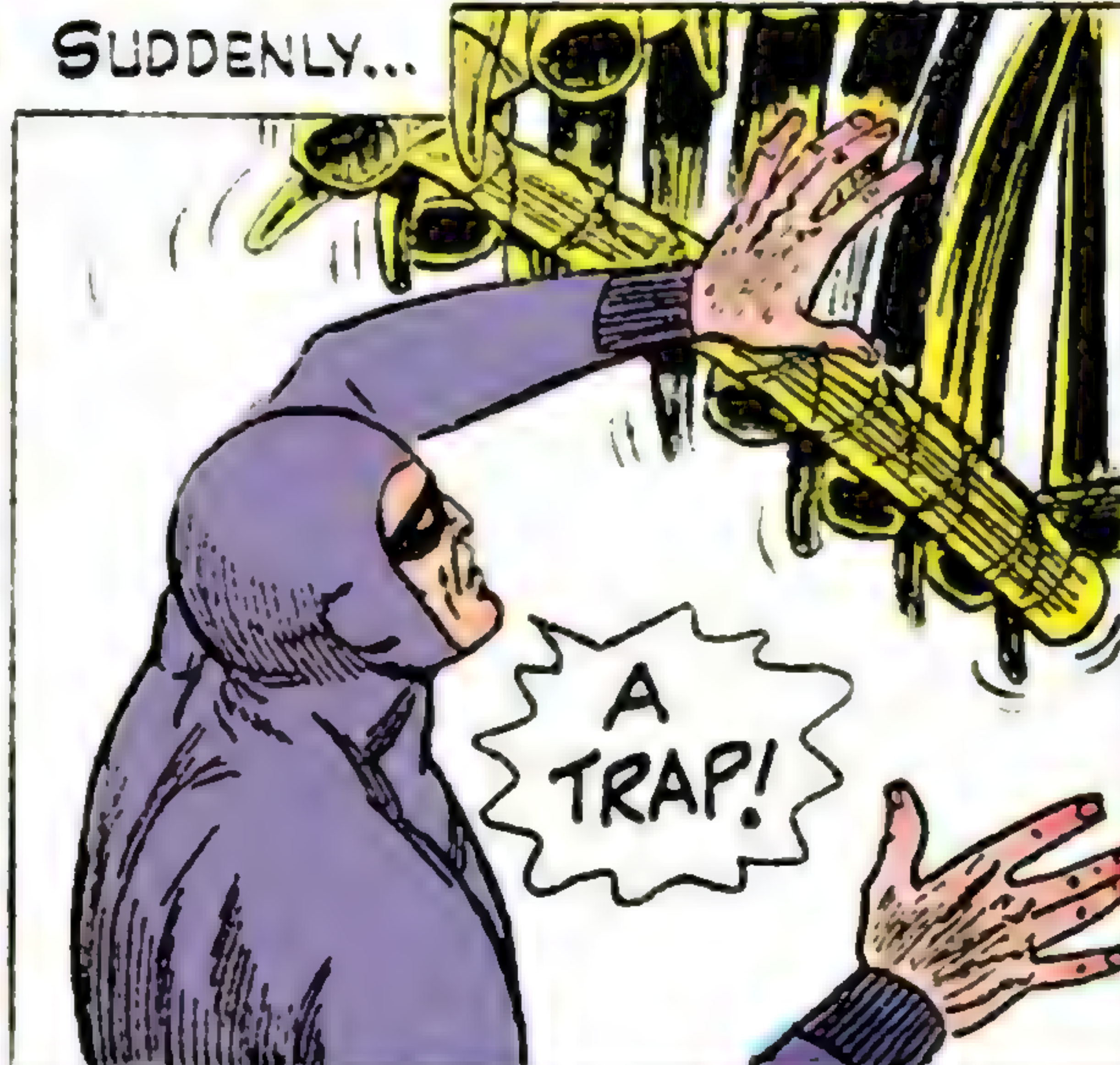
OVER SECRET JUNGLE TRAILS, THE
PHANTOM FOLLOWS THE DRUM BEATS...

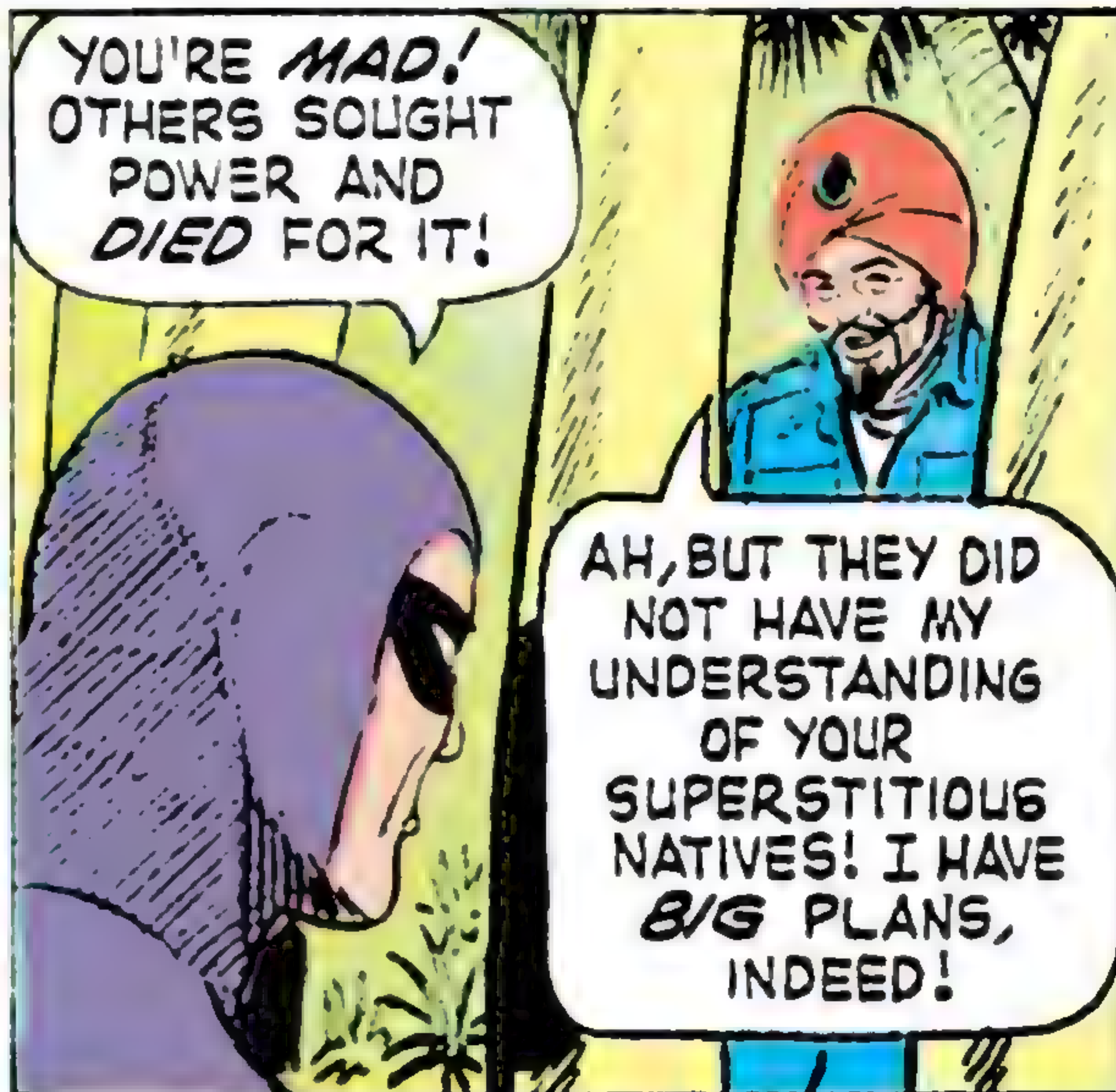
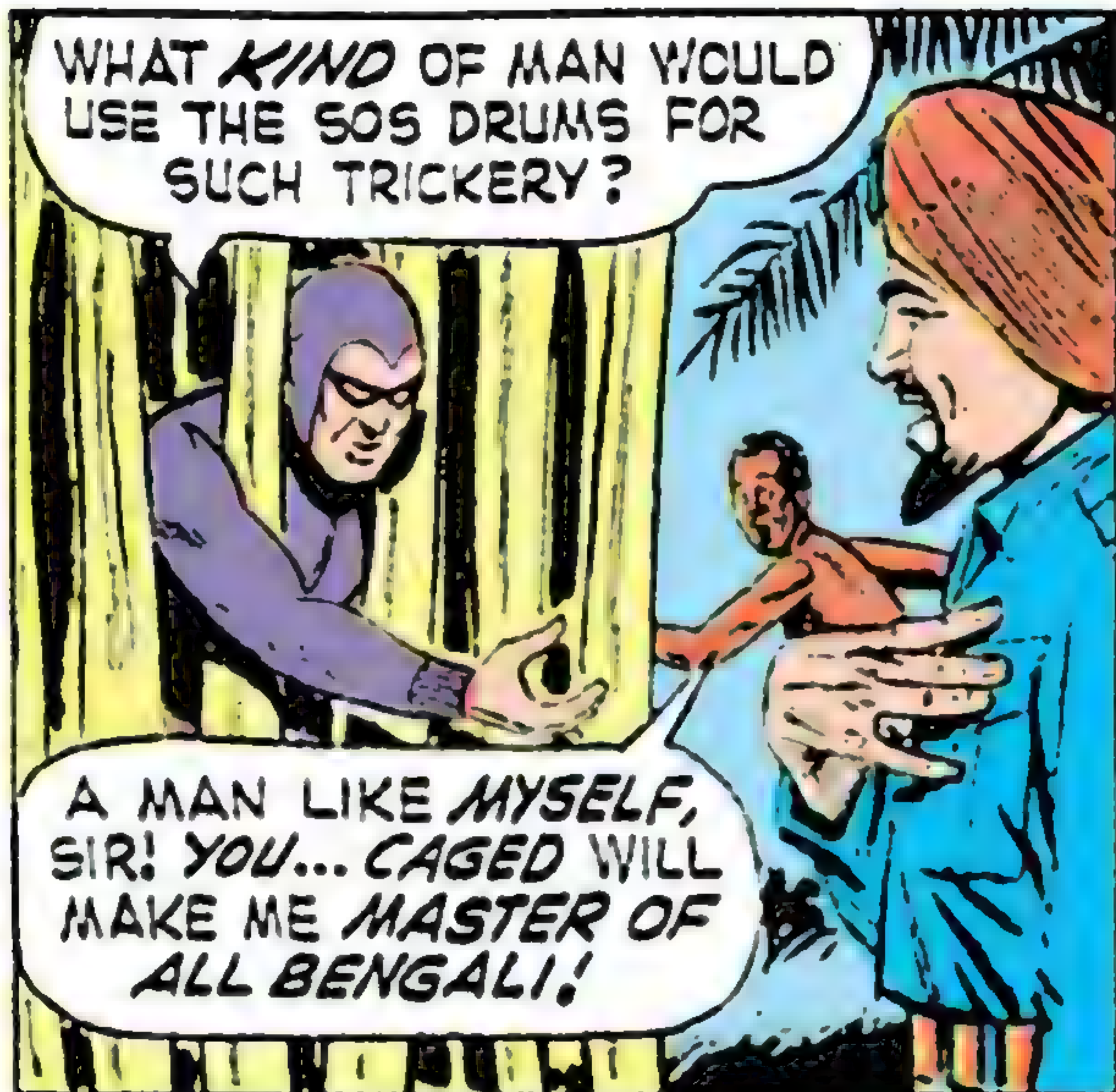


FINALLY...

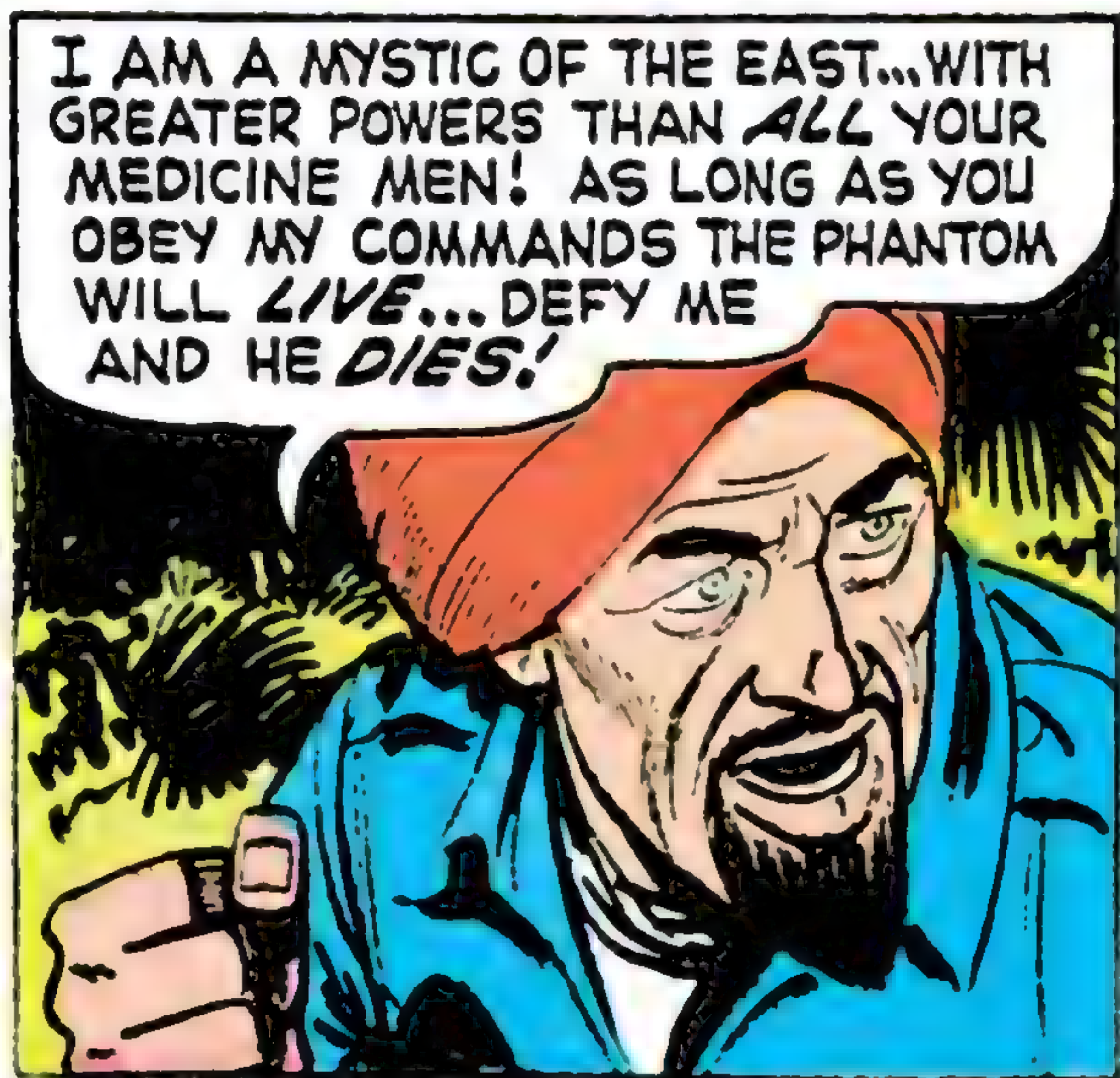


SUDDENLY...





THE NEXT DAY, NATIVES FROM A
NEARBY VILLAGE ARE SUMMONED...



THAT NIGHT...

SHH-H...PHANTOM! IT IS I, DARDO! I HAVE COME TO EXPLAIN! M-MY *FAMILY*, THEY HOLD THEM AT KNIFE POINT... THAT IS WHY I DO THEIR BIDDING!



...BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE UP FOR MY MISTAKE! LISTEN...



GOOD BOY, DARDO!

LATER...

IMPOSSIBLE!

PHANTOM! HE'S *FREE*!



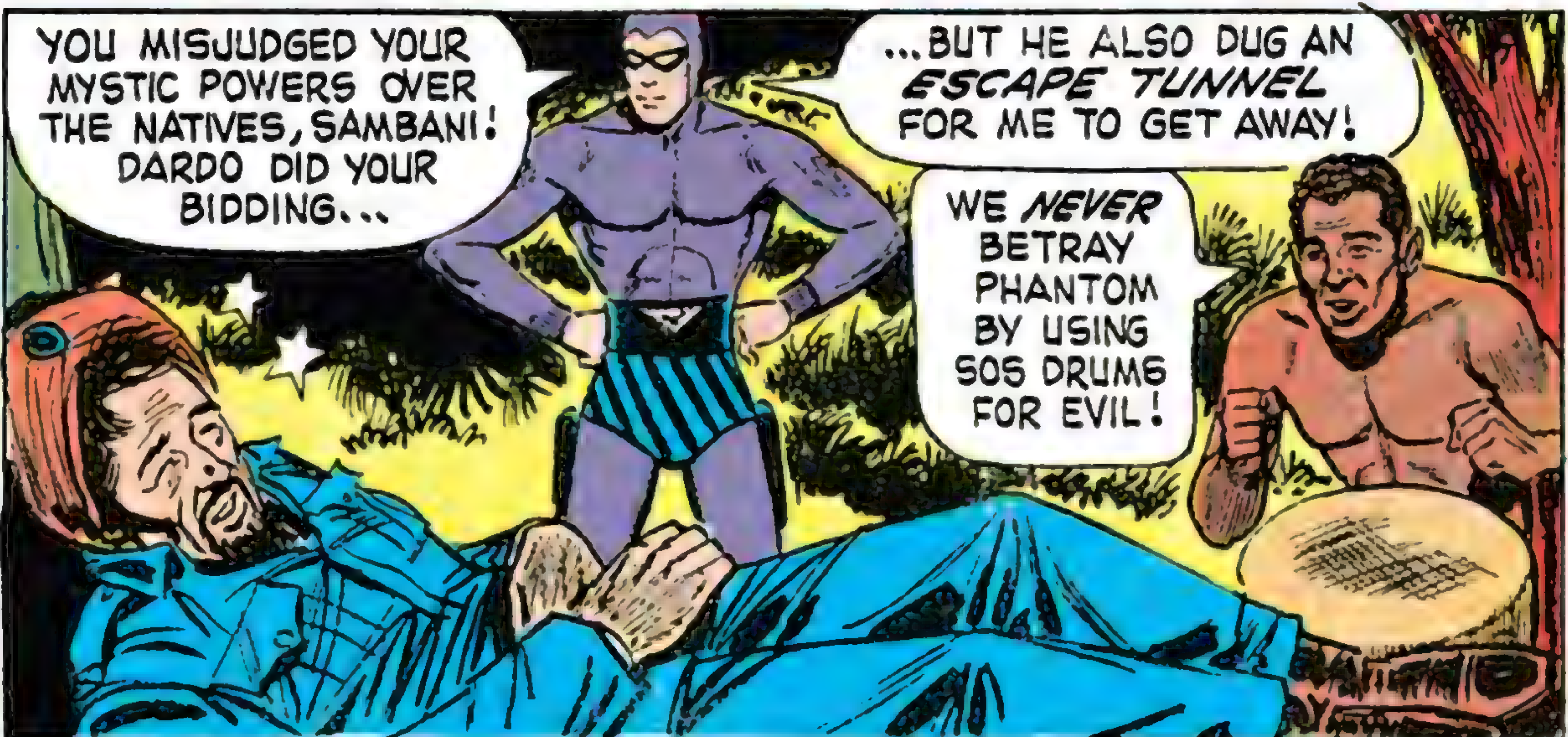
THE "IMPOSSIBLE" OFTEN HAPPENS HERE IN THE BENGALI JUNGLE, SAMBANI!



YOU MISJUDGED YOUR MYSTIC POWERS OVER THE NATIVES, SAMBANI! DARDO DID YOUR BIDDING...

...BUT HE ALSO DUG AN *ESCAPE TUNNEL* FOR ME TO GET AWAY!

WE *NEVER* BETRAY PHANTOM BY USING SOS DRUMS FOR EVIL!



The *GIRL PHANTOM*

JUNGLE-TRAINED
SISTER OF THE
GHOST WHO WALKS

THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL THE TALE OF A PRETTY YOUNG GIRL WHO LIVED IN THE DEEP WOODS MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO. SHE WAS THE PHANTOM'S TWIN SISTER...NO ORDINARY GIRL. ON OCCASION SHE TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO REPLACE THE PHANTOM HIMSELF...TO BECOME A PHANTOM *PHANTOM*. THIS WAS SUCH AN OCCASION...

MOVE, YOU LAZY LOOTS!
I WANT MY CAMP SET
UP BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
FROM NOW ON, I'M BIG
CHIEF OF YOUR JUNGLE!

BIG BOSCOLO
THE BEAST—
SETTING UP CAMP!
I'VE GOT TO
STOP HIM!

WHAT SHALL WE DO,
MISSY JULIE? THE
PHANTOM IS AWAY!

EVEN WITH ALL
YOUR SKILLS
YOU CAN NOT
STAND UP TO
SUCH A *BRUTE*!

BE CALM,
MARU!

DON'T FIGURE THAT *PHANTOM*
CHARACTER CAN HELP YOU!
I'M TOUGHER AND SMARTER THAN
YOUR MUMBO JUMBO *GHOST*
WHO WALKS!

WE SHALL
SEE,
BOSCOLO!

THAT NIGHT IN SKULL CAVE...

I DO NOT LIKE THIS, MISSY JULIE! THERE IS ONLY **ONE** PHANTOM! WHAT WOULD **HE** SAY IF HE KNEW YOU, HIS **SISTER**, WERE TAKING HIS PLACE?



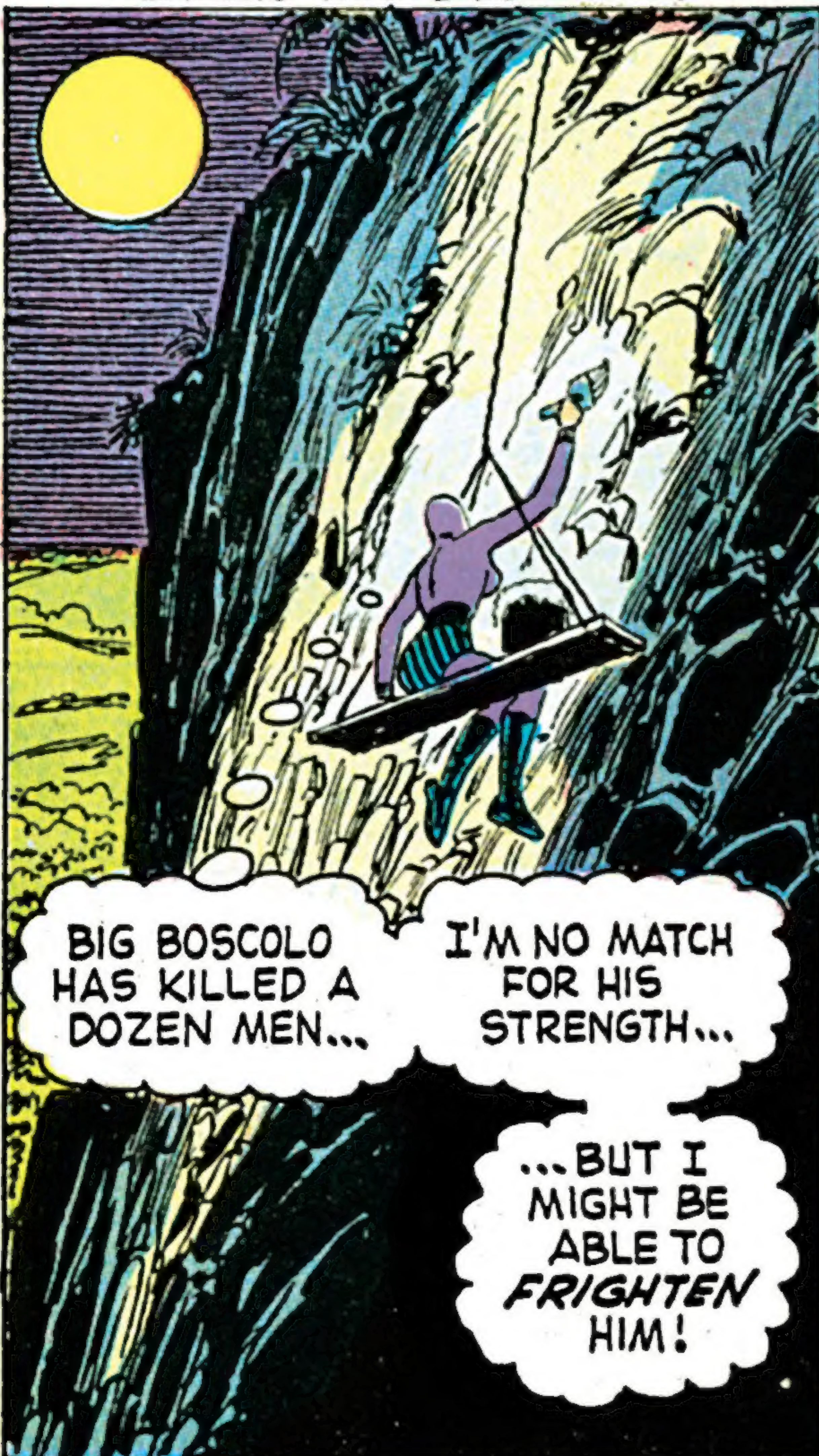
AFTER MIDNIGHT...

IF I AM NOT BACK TOMORROW BY NOON, GIVE MY NOTE TO THE **PHANTOM** WHEN HE RETURNS!

I WILL NOT FORGET!



LATER, AN AGILE FIGURE DESCENDS A CLIFF SIDE... AND FOR LONG HOURS LABORS MYSTERIOUSLY...



BIG BOSCOLO HAS KILLED A DOZEN MEN...

I'M NO MATCH FOR HIS STRENGTH...

...BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO **FRIGHTEN** HIM!

CONCEALED IN A DEEP CANYON WHOSE WALLS AMPLIFY HER VOICE, JULIE PUTS HER PLAN TO WORK...

BOSCOLO, THE BEAST! THIS IS THE **PHANTOM**!



YOU HAVE BROKEN THE **PHANTOM PEACE**...

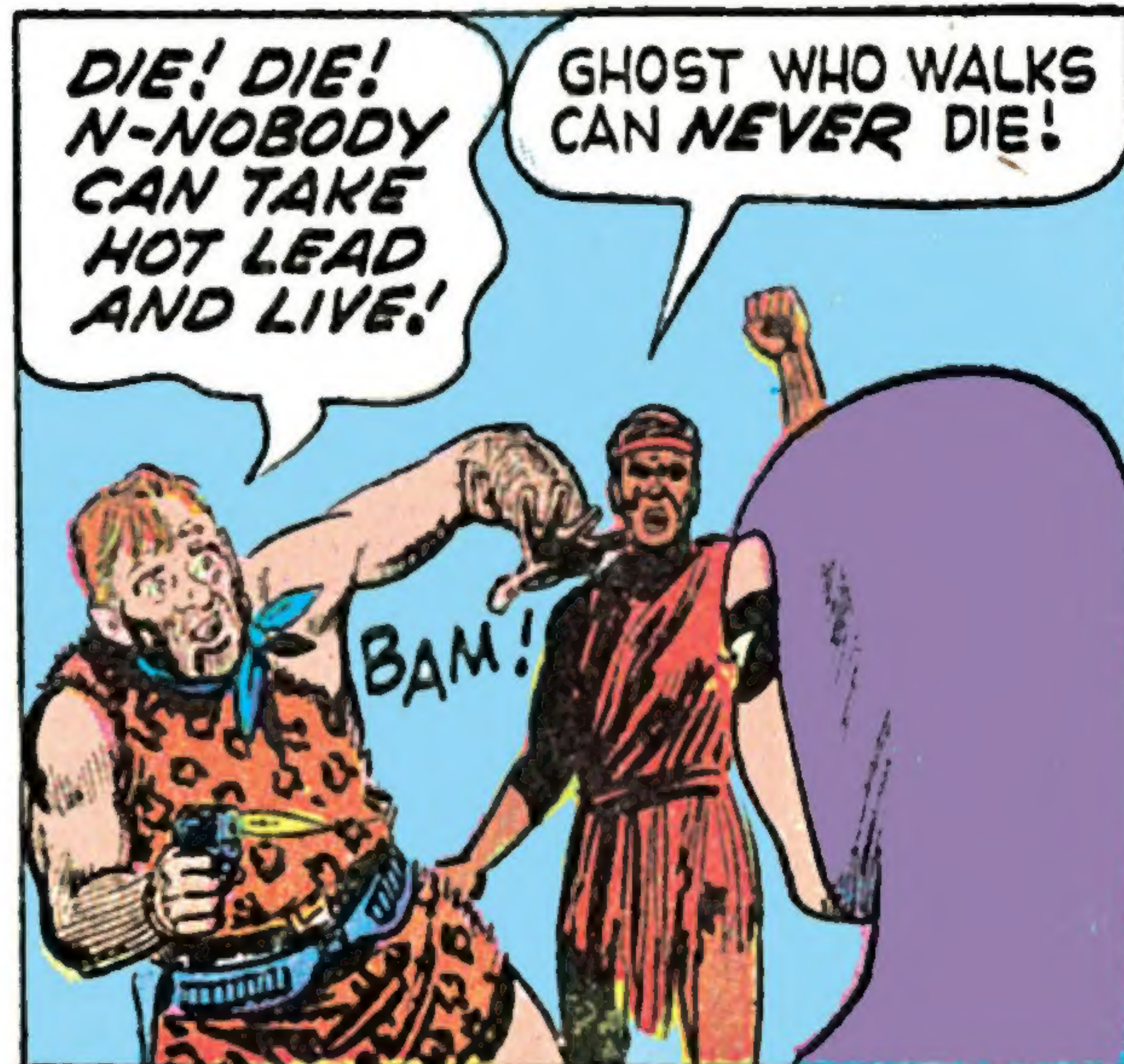
TH-THE **PHANTOM**!





BIG BOSCOLO'S FACE GOES WHITE WITH TERROR AS THE RISING SUN HITS THE FACE OF THE CLIFF...







If you liked *The Complete King Years* pick up the *The Phantom The Complete Series: The Gold Key Years: Volume One* and *The Phantom The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One* featuring classic tales of The Ghost Who Walks. Visit us at www.Hermespress.com.

